

City of CJ could be liable for \$441,666

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“ensure compliance” to the grant program.

Hanus writes that “due to the severity of the findings not cleared” OECDD had no other recourse than to “take the following actions” --

*The \$441,666 grant withdrawn without payment.

*OECDD is required by federal law to investigate labor standard compliance for the project, under direction of HUD’s Office of Labor Standards.

*The city is ineligible to apply for a CDBG for two

years.

Withdrawal of the grant likely leaves the city liable for the cost of infrastructure development.

Other violations listed revolve around the city’s failure to provide an environmental assessment prior to awarding the construction contract to Copeland Sand & Gravel, of Grants Pass. Concerning the environmental assessment, the city included an EA prepared by “paid consultant” Ken Houck, of Cave Junction.

However that document,

prepared by Houck for a separate grant project, was specific to the clinic location and did not include the infrastructure for which the grant was submitted. Further, the state contends that Houck was not authorized to act as a certifying officer for the infrastructure project.

A timeline included in the letter indicates that the city first was given notice of the areas of concern on July 17, 2007 during a visit by the OECDD regional coordinator. Hanus states that a list of concerns and the corrective actions necessary “was left with the City Administrator.”

Another letter was mailed to the city Aug. 10, 2007 again listing the deficiencies and the corrective actions necessary. It gave the city until Sept. 14 to respond.

At this point the city requested and was given a two-week extension, making the deadline Sept. 28, 2007. There is no indication that the city attempted to respond to this deadline.

A “certified mail return receipt” letter was then sent by OECDD and was signed for by the city on Oct. 30 2007. A final 30-day period was given to complete the necessary paperwork.

The OECDD regional coordinator then sent an e-mail and followed up with a phone call offering assistance three days prior to the Nov. 30 deadline. The offer apparently was declined.

On Dec. 10, 10 days past the final deadline, the state concluded that the city’s response had been inadequate. As a result, the \$441,666 grant was withdrawn without payment.

Library concert said success

A nearly full house greeted music acts “MTV” and “Funktion! Fusion” Saturday night, Jan. 19 at Rogue Theater in Grants Pass for the kick-off of a fund-raising campaign initiated by Josephine County Libraries (JCL).

The group is dedicated to reopening the county library system.

The event -- which raised approximately \$9,600 -- was deemed a success by organizers.

out hope that a better understanding of responsibilities could be reached through an intergovernmental agreement. This is the usual practice when two government entities enter a contractual situation.

Toler seemed to feel that progress at the former city jail has been impressive. But he indicated that better dialogue between the city and the county is needed before the project can proceed.

-Wally Aiken

Moon Tree dedication planning on hold

(Continued from page 1)

per base, and Moon Tree site, resulting in the prospect of no future public access to the site by vehicle or airplane.

Parking issues at the air-

Little League wants you(th)

Little League players – Where are you?

Illinois Valley Little League (IVLL) is continuing to hold player registration sign-ups through the end of January.

Players who sign up before Friday, Feb. 1 still can take advantage of the \$5 sign-up discount. After Feb. 1, registrations will be charged at regular rates: T-Ball and Coach Pitch, \$40 per child; and Minors, Majors, Juniors and Girls Softball, \$50 per child.

IVLL is encouraging early sign-ups so that it can determine the final number of teams to organize for the season. I.V. Little League is chartered for 14 teams this year. As games will begin on April 7, it is imperative to form teams and order uniforms as quickly as possible.

Any child between the ages of 5 years and 18 years is eligible to play. The only requirements are that they must provide a copy of their birth certificate and three street address proofs of residence that they live within Illinois Valley boundaries.

Watch for IVLL around town for registration times or phone Janet Ewing at 659-8618, Trisha Arias at 592-5112; or for Selma residents, register with Darlene Anderson at 597-4486.

port also have been stalling the planning of an event to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Oregon in 2009. The Siskiyou Smokejumper Base is the first aerial firefighting base in Oregon history and, along with the Moon Tree story, could have been developed into one of the more significant events of the statewide celebration.

SSBMP planners believed that an event like this would have provided a significant opportunity to promote S.W. Oregon with one of the state’s great action-adventure stories.

Roosa’s involvement in NASA’s Apollo moon missions and his career as a U.S. Air Force test pilot opened the door for the Moon Tree event at I.V. Airport to include an interesting mix of participants associated with aviation, aerospace, rocketry,

firefighting, silviculture and astronomy. Participants invited to attend included NASA, the Cafe Foundation, Pine Mountain Observatory, experimental aircraft organizations, Civil Air Patrol, and military jet demonstrations.

The SSBMP event coordinators had invited Aggie Pilgrim, the last of the Takilma Tribe, to dedicate the Moon Tree. Invitations also were sent to Edgar Mitchell, the last surviving member of the Apollo 14 mission, and astronaut-school teacher Barbara Morgan with her husband, Clay Morgan, a retired smokejumper. Efforts were under way to contact and invite the children of Roosa, all of whom were with their father when he came to the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base and personally planted the first Moon Tree in 1976.

(Continued next week)

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Use of CJ jail facility in jeopardy temporarily

In a week of bad news the city of Cave Junction learned Thursday, Jan. 17 that the work at upgrading the jail in city hall may be for naught.

“I know that volunteers have put in a lot of blood, sweat and tears...” was the comment by Josephine County Commission Chairman Dave Toler.

But concerns about the county’s liability and maintenance responsibilities had all

three commissioners concerned. There also was some discussion concerning a \$200 monthly payment included in the lease as to whether it was for utilities or rent.

The county gave the go-ahead to explore the possibility of a Cave Junction holding site with the understanding that the city would be the “host.” This would mean that no rent would be necessary.

The commissioners held

award Skyline Conference Honorable Mention. Bowman was captain of the volleyball team this school year, and served as manager of the girls’ basketball team.

She has received the Cougar Pride Award, Attendance Award, ECMC Scholarship, and she has completed requirements for her educational Certificate of Initial Mastery. For the past two years, she has volunteered to work with students at Evergreen Elementary School.

After graduation in June, Bowman will attend Oregon Institute of Technology at Klamath Falls to earn a bachelor’s degree in dental hygiene.

Student Achiever

Nichole Bowman

Nichole Bowman, a senior student at Illinois Valley High School, is January Student of the Month, sponsored



by Kerby Masonic Belt Lodge AF&AM.

Bowman is the daughter of Jason & Vicki Gill, of rural Cave Junction. The recognized student has maintained a 2.5 grade-point average.

A member of the varsity volleyball team, she was

awarded Skyline Conference Honorable Mention. Bowman was captain of the volleyball team this school year, and served as manager of the girls’ basketball team.

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- Diane Ackerman -

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