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City chicken issue tabled for now ...

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A proposed amendment to a Cave Junction ordinance that would have OK'd having chickens for domestic purposes in city limits has been scuttled for the time being.

Wells Drive resident Heidi Kleve first approached the city council with the issue during its June 22 meeting. Kleve said that she wanted to amend Ordinance 8.08.030 to

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BCC approves grant request for VATICAL

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A conditional \$25,000 economic development grant for a security firm was OK'd 2-1 by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners during its Tuesday, July 21 administrative meeting at the courthouse in Grants Pass.

The grant approval followed a presentation by Herb Carter and Gerard Fitzgerald from Public Safety Inventions (PSI), of Grants Pass. The start-up business is promoting a security system, Victim and Threat Isolating Communicator and Locator (VATICAL), for public buildings.

Prior to the presentation, Fitzgerald, PSI's director of marketing, said that he had to address some of the "disinformation" surrounding the product.

"VATICAL is not, I repeat, is not, any kind of listening device for any kind of government agency at all," Fitzgerald said. "What it is, is the next phase and the future of public safety."

Fitzgerald said that VATICAL is "no different" from programs like First Alert and On-Star. He added that users are the only ones who can activate it.

"It is not activated remotely by anybody else for any other reason," he said.

In the instance of an emergency, Fitzgerald said, VATICAL's listening devices can be activated "so you can get eyes on the scene and first responders get information about what's going on."

VATICAL has the ability to isolate victims from a threat during armed intruder incidents, Fitzgerald said. He said that it has "unique features that allow it to do much, (Continued on page 11)

Hemp agriculture gains traction at state, local levels

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Oregon is poised to become the seventh state to legalize the agricultural use of hemp, and some Josephine County officials are expressing support for the concept.

The Legislature has approved Senate Bill 676, sponsored by Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene). And although Gov. Kulongoski had yet to sign the bill as of Saturday, July 25, it is anticipated that he will do so.

Prozanski has been proposing legislation similar to SB 676 since 1997. He said that he considers hemp to be "like any other commodity."

"The reality is, industrial hemp has a very rich history in this country as an agricultural crop and for whatever reason, we allowed ourselves to be hoodwinked by other competing products," Prozanski said. "Now, people are realizing the benefit to having industrial hemp grown within the borders of the U.S., instead of importing its products from other countries."

Section two of SB 676 states that hemp would be considered an agricultural product

regulated by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA). Hemp growers and handlers would be required to have a license issued by ODA, as well as an agricultural hemp seed production permit.



Industrial hemp, the raw material for products such as this wallet, may soon be legally grown in Oregon. (IVN photo)

Application for the license must include the "global positioning system coordinates" and legal property description of the grow site. The crop must be at least 2.5 acres in size, and the non-

transferable permits are valid for three years, unless revoked, and may be renewed.

Under SB 676, ODA would have the authority to seize hemp plants if the crop contains a tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration exceeding .3 percent on a dry weight basis. It also would be able to impose a \$2,500 civil penalty for violations.

Hemp still is considered illegal by the federal government, but Prozanski said that he expects that to change.

He noted, "Work has been done at the federal level for years, and people understand what it is and what it isn't, and we could, in fact, see a redefinition of marijuana to not include industrial hemp."

Prozanski said that legalizing hemp for industrial use could help many Oregon businesses that already sell it.

"There are already so many out there," he said. "We could cut their costs that they pay for importing the raw material by having it grown here. That will allow cottage industries to become more mainstream industries and put more resources into production vs. transportation and

other costs for the product."

Sheriff OK With Industrial Hemp

Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson said that he supports the legalization of industrial hemp.

"I think it's a good idea," Gilbertson said. "I think it's a viable crop, and the entire county could benefit from it."

County Commissioner Dave Toler said that hemp has "a lot of potential," and may be used to make products as diverse as fibers, and maybe even oils and biofuels.

Toler points out that hemp can grow in less than ideal conditions, which could benefit Josephine County.

"We don't have a lot of prime agricultural soil in this county," he said. "This could be a match for that."

Prozanski said that the possibility also exists for hemp to be combined with timber to produce pulp.

"There are multiple ways I can see how the introduction of industrial hemp can help complement existing timber products and sources," Prozanski said. "The reality is, I believe it can do well in the state of Oregon."

Planning, land-use issues forum topic

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Issues surrounding planning and land-use were the main topics during a town hall meeting conducted on the evening of Wednesday, July 22 at Anne Basker Auditorium in Grants Pass.

Approximately 30 people attended the forum, which featured a panel of speakers with a variety of perspectives.

Robert Harada from the Josephine County Planning Dept. stated that he also has worked in Jackson County's planning office. He said that he originally came from California, which does not have comprehensive statewide land-use policies.

Harada said that often times, counties and cities are limited by state regulations. That can be a frustrating experience for planning officials, he said.

"I sympathize with people," Harada said. "I can tell you; no planner enjoys denying anything."

Bob Hart spoke of his 17 years with the Josephine County planning office and subsequent experience as a private land-use consultant.

Josephine County adopted its development code in 1958, Hart said, and adopted a 63-page zoning document in 1973.

"Then the state got in-

olved," Hart said.

The county's regulations since have grown to 380 pages, and the state's are now 541, Hart said. He noted that more burdens have been placed on applicants throughout the years.

Hart said that the planning office used to work directly with applicants to solve any potential issues, but that the process has since become "a lot more bureaucratic and a lot less user-friendly."

Harold Haugen, a former longtime Josephine County commissioner, said that land-use issues were part of the reason he first decided to run for office in 1978. He recalled attending several "horrendous" meetings in the 1970s regarding land-use.

Oregon's land-use laws have become an "adversarial system," Haugen said.

Measure 37, passed by Oregon voters in 2004, was a "breath of fresh air," Haugen said, and would have returned some aspects of land-use planning back to local municipalities. But voters passed Measure 49 in 2007.

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Greg Walter at the office of U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden. (Photo provided)

Walter testifies on Caves expansion

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Cave Junction resident Greg Walter spent part of last week at the nation's capital in Washington, D.C., as he testified in favor of expanding the Oregon Caves National Monument territory.

Walter was invited to testify by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), who is sponsoring S.1270. It would expand the monument by more than 4,000 acres, and transfer administration of much of that land from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service (NPS).

On Wednesday, July 22, Walter testified before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, which is under the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee. During his testimony, Walter provided an historical perspective on the monument and its importance to Illinois Valley.

His presentation included: "While 2,560 acres were originally withdrawn for the monument, President Taft designated a small 480-acre rectangular boundary in 1909. At that time, it was assumed that protecting the immediate area above the cave was sufficient to protect the caves."

"Scientific studies over the past century, however, have made it clear that the below-ground caves interact with the environment above ground. It is obvious that protecting the Cave Creek watershed is key to protecting this

unique cave system."

Walter testified that expanding the monument would aid the valley economy.

"According to the National Park Service, 73 percent of visitors would stay longer at the Oregon Caves if there were more to do than the 90-minute cave tour currently offered," Walter said. "Unfortunately, the surrounding landscape is not marketed to maximize the public enjoyment or economic potential of this unique area."

Aside from his oral testimony, Walter also provided the members of the subcommittee with additional written information. That included a description of Cave Junction and its economic situation.

"Low wages, a lack of economic opportunity, high unemployment and rural poverty characterize this area," Walter wrote. "We have basically condemned the community pool, we have no public library and our local Boys & Girls club struggles annually to keep its doors open operating out of the local elementary school with no facility of its own."

Walter wrote that increased tourism at the monument could drive the area's economy and generate substantial revenue for small businesses.

"The economic opportunity that Hwy. 199 offers to our small rural community through travel spending is con-

siderable," Walter wrote. "There are about 300,000 tourist vehicles traveling through this corridor annually, each carrying an average of three people who spend an average of \$135 per day on lodging, food, gas and other items. The total spending potential of this tourist corridor is about \$40 million annually."

In a Wednesday, July 22 press release, Lesley Adams of the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center states that NPS proposed expanding the monument in 1939, 1949 and 1999. She also praised Wyden for his legislative efforts.

"We are happy to see this legislation moving forward and thank Sen. Wyden for championing a bill that will help protect a local resource and a national treasure in S.W. Oregon," Adams said.

"We hope that this legislation will help the Park Service fulfill the intent of its 1999 General Management Plan, which recommended expansion in order to protect cave ecology and water resources."

In the same release, Wyden expressed his desire to push through with the proposed expansion.

"Today's hearing was the first step in a process Oregonians have been waiting for since the 1930s," Wyden said. "I'm going to make sure they don't have to wait another century to see the Oregon Caves get the protection they deserve."

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall recorded at The End of the Road in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson:				
*Fri.,	July 17	102	58	.00
*Sat.,	July 18	99	59	.00
*Sun.,	July 19	101	58	.00
*Mon.,	July 20	99	59	.00
*Tue.,	July 21	94	58	.00
*Wed.,	July 22	98	54	.00
*Thu.,	July 23	94	59	.00

Following are the high-and-low temperatures and rainfall recorded at Oregon Builders Inc. in Cave Junction:				
*Fri.,	July 17	99	48	.00
*Sat.,	July 18	96	53	.00
*Sun.,	July 19	97	50	.00
*Mon.,	July 20	98	50	.00
*Tue.,	July 21	93	49	.00
*Wed.,	July 22	96	49	.00
*Thu.,	July 23	92	54	.00

Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, July 29
Hot sunshine
High--103 Low--62



Thursday, July 30
Sunny
High--99 Low--57



Friday, July 31
Sunny and hot
High--97 Low--56



Saturday, Aug. 1
Sunny and warm
High--95 Low--56



Sunday, Aug. 2
Sun with t-storms
High--91 Low--56



Monday, Aug. 3
Sunshine
High--84 Low--50



Tuesday, Aug. 4
Sun hidden by clouds
High--79 Low--48

