

# Illinois Valley News

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## Reeves Creek Fire gets full response

By Dan Mancuso  
IVN Staff Writer

As of 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 29, the Reeves Creek Fire had consumed 230 acres in a populated area near Lake Selmac.

Firefighters and bulldozers dug fire lines all Monday night on the Reeves Creek Fire. By Tuesday morning, the fire line encircled 70 percent of the fire's perimeter, according to a press release from Brian Ballou, a fire prevention specialist with ODF Southwest Oregon District.

Seven homes in the area border the fire's footprint. One close call occurred Monday night as the fire was moving towards a home when the winds changed and pushed the fire back into itself, saving the structure.

The press release from Ballou stated that six fire suppression crews, five wild land fire suppression engines, two bulldozers and three helicopters would be used to fight the fire Tuesday. An air tanker was also available.



(Photo by IVFD Media Dept)

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A 230 acre fire on Reeves Creek Rd. near the gravel pit was called in just past 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 2014.

## Martinson comes in peacefully

By Judy Hoyle  
IVN Contributing Writer

Following a nearly three week-long manhunt during which Oregon State Police (OSP), assisted by the U.S. Marshals Service and personnel from Jackson County had attempted to arrest him in Cave Junction and also chased him through the mountains of Southern Oregon and California; Daniel Joseph Martinson peacefully surrendered to authorities last Wednesday, clad only in a loincloth and a wreath of pine twigs. The murder suspect was wanted in connection with a November 2013 homicide in Cave Junction.

OSP had issued a felony warrant against Martinson, age 44, for the murder of Aaron Lee Clouser, age 39. Both men were lifelong residents of Cave Junction. The OSP Criminal Investigations Division detectives had been investigating the homicide with the assistance of the Josephine County District Attorney's Office, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety and Josephine County Parole and Probation.

The morning began normally enough for volunteers Suzanne Vautier and Theresa Dugas who were making routine preparations for stocking the food bank "store" at the Doug Hoskins Resource Center on Junction Avenue.

Vautier was very familiar with Martinson since her job is doing noxious weed surveys for the state. "I already knew him from the mountains," Vautier explains. "He was out and about a lot. I knew him from around town, too."

"I'd just opened the food bank and Theresa was there, helping me stock up the shelves, getting ready for the give out in the afternoon. Some food banks just hand out boxes of food, but we make the room like a store so people can pick out items they will use. It cuts down on waste and gives people a little dignity."

See Martinson on A-9



(Courtesy photo from The Illinois Valley News)

Daniel Martinson at Jubilee Park on July 23.

## Rough & Ready hits deadline

By Annette McGee Rasch  
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

Rough & Ready Lumber Company's new small-log processing facility must be operating by July 31 to satisfy state-mandated requirements spelled out in a \$5 million financial aid package the company received last March. But first a Certificate of Occupancy is needed.

"The new facility cannot operate without this certificate," said Josephine County Building Safety Director Robert Rice. "To get it, they must pass key building and safety inspections."

According to county and state officials the mill is out of compliance with numerous permitting requirements, and has been for years. Now, they say these state codes must be met. County officials administer state codes and have no authority to waive or alter these standards.

"Back in 2008, the first notification had been made to the mill that they lacked adequate permits for their co-gen plant," said county commissioner Keith Heck. "The issue has dragged out since then. And I can understand how this happened. When you're fighting to keep your head above water, safety inspections are not exactly a

priority, but now, with new contractual obligations, these old permitting issues have come to a head."

Thus an effort is moving forward to accommodate a "parallel permitting process" for the new facility, the co-gen plant and other buildings, according to Rice.

"No one is grinding any axe," Rice said. "We all want to see the mill open. I've spent an inordinate amount of time defining the necessary steps and creating check lists to help expedite this whole process, trying to help them come into compliance."

The new facility requires an adequate water supply, fire pumps and ancillary plumbing,

fire hydrants, sprinkler systems, emergency lighting, exit signs and smoke alarms, according to both Rice and Deputy State Fire Marshal Charlie Chase.

"All these life-safety and fire-safety systems must be installed and inspected prior to the building being occupied," Chase said. "The standards in play here are the same standards that any business must comply with."

On July 17, a fast-moving fire, believed to have started in a wood dryer, engulfed and completely destroyed the Springfield Plywood and Veneer mill, putting 250 people out of work.

See Ready on A-9

## Walker hears citizen concerns

By Judy Hoyle  
IVN Contributing Writer

The Josephine County Commissioners routinely meet quarterly at the County Building in Cave Junction. The July 28 meeting was sparsely attended in comparison to the April meeting where the topic of conversation was medical marijuana dispensaries.

Neither Commissioners Simon Hare nor Keith Heck were able to attend the July 28 session because of a conflicting land use planning hearing in Grants Pass so Commissioner Cheryl Walker conducted the meeting alone.

During the first half hour of the session, which is always devoted to a public meeting between Cave Junction city councilors and county commissioners, City Councilor John Gardiner asked Walker to provide an update on the commissioners' current thinking regarding medical marijuana dispensaries, and pointed out that in Gold Hill a 5% sales tax had brought the City \$250 in the first 2 days. Gardiner told Walker that in the 3 city meetings held to discuss the dispensary issue, all but one member of the public who were present were in favor.

Mayor Carl Jacobson and Councilor Jim Polk responded that those against were 'cowed' by those in favor, and most of those in attendance were not residents of Cave Junction. Gardiner

replied that no-one was 'cowed', and that if they thought that a dispensary in the city was only for the 1,850 people living within city boundaries that they were mistaken. He went on to state that if they thought that the city's dispensary income would come solely from its residents, that too would be incorrect.

Gardiner also asked Walker about the measure to return some of the lottery money to the county, a statewide measure promoted by Saving Our Safety, which is planned for the May 2016 primary. Walker responded that approximately \$300,000 is currently generated annually and that she would take both of Gardiner's questions back to the other commissioners.

During the public listening session Walker solicited citizen concerns and all attendees were asked to speak.

Christine Perala Gardiner asked that Josephine County Emergency Services collaborate with concerned non-profits to acquire a mobile shower unit for emergency situations as well as providing showers for the indigent as a matter of public health, citing the recent outbreak of fleas and ticks related to the homeless population who gather in Jubilee Park.

One citizen asked about whether a key to the county building might be made more available to the public. Current policy requires that Illinois Valley residents must drive into Grants Pass in order to pay the rental fee and pick up the key. Walker responded that

that issue may be resolved as soon as September.

Regarding finding funds to make the county building more energy efficient, Walker stated that \$40,000 from existing building operating funds had gone toward a new furnace for the building. She expressed the hope that the building can be made more efficient and user-friendly in the future, including the idea of creating a foyer on the north end of the great room to reduce lost heat in the winter.

Both Jim Nolan and Ron Smith discussed property rights issues. In response to the suggestion that the county write more grant proposals, Smith stated that grant money is not free money and that accepting such funds steers the county in the direction the federal government wants to go. Walker replied that 95% of grant funds go toward targeted projects, with 5% going toward administration.

Smith gave the example of USDA block grants for low income housing and expressed the concern that the county might be forced to accept illegal aliens as a result of taking federal funds. He also expressed concern about the U.N. plan titled Agenda 21 and that it will impose limits on sovereign nations. Smith has a 15 minute PowerPoint presentation about this issue. Gardiner replied that he was aware of several countries where Agenda 21 goals are successfully being implemented for the common good.