

# Three-year police levy due ballot by city of CJ

By MICHELLE BINKER  
Staff Writer

In the interest of doubling the number of hours of dedicated police protection for Cave Junction, the city council officially has decided to place a three-year law enforcement levy on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The council reached its 5-0 decision during its Monday night, Aug. 9 meeting in CJ City Hall, attended by Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel and Lt. Lee Harman.

Speaking strongly in favor of the additional protection, John Mansfield, manager of Pharmacy Express in Downtown CJ, cited a recent burglary at his store "which would not have happened had there been a deputy on patrol."

Not all were so enthusiastic. "I've said it before...I am sick and tired of paying more taxes," said CJ businessperson Sally Palmer.

Palmer did recommend reducing the original levy proposal from five years to three, which the council took into consideration in its final decision.

The city currently pays the sheriff's office approximately \$88,000 per year for 40 hours of dedicated patrol.

This contract rate, the sheriff's office said, pays the salary, general liability insurance, overtime and vehicle maintenance costs of one full-time deputy.

The levy, if passed,

would help provide 80 hours coverage per week.

Based on his patrol experience in CJ, which began in 1978 on the city's former police force, Harman predicted that additional coverage would reduce thefts and burglaries, and increase city revenue due to traffic citations.

Daniel did not exactly endorse the proposed levy. Instead, he suggested that an additional 40 hours might not be sufficient.

"Cave Junction is no longer a small town," Daniel said.

"Cave Junction (population 1,421) is a small city which is growing fast," he said. "My recommendation would be for 24/7 police coverage."

The sheriff recommended that the city consider forming its own police department, or work with the sheriff's office to provide "168-hour-per-week coverage." That equates to 24-hour coverage seven days a week.

While recognizing the city's growth and need, Mayor Ed Faircloth said that the city is in no position to take on a police department. But he recommended forming a committee to explore the idea, and trying to secure additional patrol coverage in the meantime.

"There's no guarantee that if we put this on the ballot it will pass," said the mayor, "but we owe it to the people to give them the option."

**BIKE-ARAMA - Some 270 bicyclists rolled into Cave Junction on Monday, Aug. 9 and set up camp at Illinois Valley High School. Among the participants is Dan Wilkins, 72, of Newberry Park, Calif. (below). The cyclists average 75 mile per day and the route involves an average rise in elevation of 3,500 feet per day.**

(Top photo by Michelle Binker; bottom photo by Shane Welsh)



## Valley gets surprise visit by Oregon Bicycle Ride

By MICHELLE BINKER  
Staff Writer

Some 270 riders from throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond are braving 100-plus degree heat to participate in the 18th annual Oregon Bicycle Ride.

The 500-mile, seven-day event, touted for "low density and high adventure," began in Roseburg on Sunday, Aug. 8.

The cyclists arrived in Cave Junction Monday afternoon, Aug. 9, and settled on the ball field at Illinois Valley High School to camp for two nights.

During their one-day layover in Illinois Valley, many of the cyclists visited Oregon Caves National

Monument, and took in other valley attractions. Many of them went shopping in Downtown Cave Junction and patronized the restaurants.

"This is the original cross-state ride," said event organizer Sandy Green, of Bend.

While some participants are preparing for the 2,200-cyclist Cycle Oregon event that will occur later this year, a number said they prefer the smaller, less-crowded event.

From CJ the riders will travel to Ashland, on through Ft. Klamath to Diamond Lake and conclude their trip in Roseburg on Aug. 14.

## Home repair advice listed

For home repair work, hire only licensed contractors, said Oregon Construction Contractors Board.

It also noted that contractors should not be paid in full until a project is completed, and that "free" inspections should be monitored.

For more information phone (503) 378-4621.

He who has achieved success has worked well, laughed often and loved much. - Elbert Hubbard -

## Biscuit Fire salvage sales in limbo following ruling

To log or not to log: That is the question surrounding Biscuit Fire salvage sales.

A preliminary injunction was issued in U.S. District Court in Medford on Tuesday, Aug. 3, blocking logging in old-growth areas of the 2002 Biscuit Fire. Subsequently the Siskiyou National Forest filed a motion agreeing to use its own personnel to mark trees slated to be left standing.

U.S. District Judge Michael Hogan blocked logging on five recently auctioned fire salvage timber sales, based on claims by preservationist groups that

failure to mark the trees violated the National Forest Management Act.

Rather than rely on timber industry employees to preserve the correct trees, the Dept. of Agriculture is required to see to it that the work is done by someone with no financial interest in the matter.

Siskiyou National Forest is now awaiting Hogan's response to the motion filed in response to his ruling. Hogan's Aug. 3 ruling also indicated that claims that logging in late successional reserves violated the Northwest Forest Plan would not likely win.

## Rural plan unit needs help

Volunteers to fill a vacancy on the Josephine County Rural Planning Commission are sought by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

The planning commission is made up of nine residents from various geographic areas of Josephine County appointed by county commissioners to serve four-year terms.

The planning commission reviews and decides

significant land development requests, such as subdivisions, commercial, industrial and resource uses, and conditional uses.

The deadline for accepting applications is Sunday, Aug. 15. Applications are available in the JoCo Board of Commissioners' office, Room 154, Josephine County Courthouse, Grants Pass. For more information phone (541) 474-5221.

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