

Citizens involved in law priorities

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An example of such a project could be a city park with unacceptable levels of criminal activity. Whereas the patrol deputy is forced to react to each criminal incident individually; then move quickly on to the next call waiting, the COP deputy(s) can adjust their shifts, set up surveillance, identify key elements to the problems and provide focused and intensive enforcement until the problem is eradicated.

Unfortunately, assigning such deputies takes manpower, and running such programs takes money.

With deputies currently working 12-hour overtime shifts just to cover 24-hour patrols and no budget to hire additional help, the sheriff's Office has neither of these important elements. We must find a way of addressing the problems and the projects that affect the community, while still trying to juggle the ever-increasing call load.

To do this, I am asking for help from the community.

During our first CJSC meeting in May, the ground-work was laid for continuing involvement of the community in its security priorities. It was laid out in very stark form just how limited are sheriff's office patrol resources. Worse, is the understaffing of the jail that makes it impossible to take anybody but the very worst of offenders to jail.

Most of those attending the May meeting appeared genuinely surprised at what our staffing has shrunk to. The mix of residents, business owners and city officials decided the meetings were a good start, and we committed to continue them.

The problems at Jubilee Park were unanimously voted as the most critical livability issue, and the sheriff's office was tasked to find ways to clean it up.

In June I was able to report to CJSC that Jubilee Park once again belonged to the good people of Cave Junction, and that the element that had taken it over

and was destroying it was gone. Results were from focused enforcement action with a zero tolerance policy toward certain offenses such as alcoholic beverages, combined with some creative touches such as having deputies write reports and take lunch in the park.

Seeing the efforts and the changes, citizens joined in the project. Citizens joined in "park patrols;" the graffiti was removed from the buildings, and trash was



cleaned up. Today, Jubilee Park remains a clean, safe place to take family again.

June's consortium brought two more security and livability issues to the table. Graffiti had been cleaned up in Jubilee Park, but "gang-style" graffiti was an issue citywide. The meeting had a strong contingent of business owners who felt victimized by a transient element that was frequenting the downtown area.

Complaints included extreme drunkenness, defecating on the sidewalks, public masturbation, criminal mischief, violence and threats of violence and other lewd behavior.

By July's meeting a citizens graffiti abatement team had been formed, and the graffiti has vanished from the city. Businesses cooperating with focused and persistent enforcement by the sheriff's office have had a significant effect on the disorderly transient problems in the downtown area.

The July meeting was the largest so far, with approximately 80 people in the

standing-room only assembly at city hall. Many showed up to express dissatisfaction with the CJ contract deputy's enforcement priorities. Interestingly, these are the same priorities that had been set by their neighbors during previous CJSC meetings.

During the August meeting I hope to establish some civilian leadership for the security council by putting a council secretary into position. In this position, a volunteer will act as a coordinator and a liaison to the sheriff's office in security council matters.

In response to input from the last large meeting I will also try to provide a more structured format for the meetings. Enforcement priorities will be evaluated and changed if necessary, based on meeting input.

Those who have been attending the meetings know by now that I don't tip-toe around issues or controversy. I will tell you the truth to the best of my knowledge, and if you think I am wrong I will listen.

Undersheriff Anderson has asked me to do something different and daring in Cave Junction. He has decentralized control for this area, and through this pilot program has given it to the citizens of Cave Junction.

I challenge everyone who lives or works here not to waste this opportunity. If you voice concerns about how resources are being used -- yet fail to show up to the meetings to assist in setting these priorities -- it will be difficult to take your concerns seriously. Your neighbors showed up, and the actions of the sheriff's office in Cave Junction are being decided by them.

I want to once again thank all those who continue to work with us toward making Cave Junction a better place to live. To date, we have had a profound effect on every project we have tackled.

I look forward to continuing with the work we have started.



ILLINOIS VALLEY CHAMBER of Commerce presented its fourth annual golf tournament at Laurel Pines/I.V. Golf Course on Saturday, Aug. 12. The tournament organizer was chamber director Vicki Gill, who works at First American Title in Cave Junction. First American will host a chamber mixer at its CJ office Friday, Aug. 18 from 5-6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. The first-place team in the tournament (top photo) consisted of (not in order) Kit Fluck, Jeff Davis, Tony Morreale and Beth Morreale with a net 53.6. The second-place team (beneath top photo) was made up of Neal Dierkes, Huey Hults, Scott Thornhill and Frank Pinios (not in order). The latter team, with net 54, edged its closest competitor, which turned in net 54.6. Special events at the tournament included a putting contest (left photo). See chamber 'thank you' ad on page 15. (Photos by 'Illinois Valley News')

Library tax district sent to Nov. 7 ballot by commissioners

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Lard said, "Those who are elected to the board would just be out of a job."

Lard referred to the current paltry service level in the library system, due to drastic funding cuts through the years: "We have no reference librarian, no chil-

dren's programs, no outreach, no hours (of operation)."

Six years ago, the library system had 27 full-time positions filled. Currently, there are only 4.3 FTE workers in the system.

"It's very difficult just to get into the library, and

with limited hours, there are lines of people waiting for service," Lard said.

Library supporters were told by the county commissioners last year that the county would be "getting out of the library business," Lard noted.

At that time, the com-

missioners encouraged formation of the tax district.

For those interested in serving on the possible library board, an informational meeting will be held Sunday, Aug. 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Ben Bones room at the Grants Pass branch of the library.

OSU utilizing 'the beetles' to help in management of farm pests

Oregon farmers, including some in Grants Pass, are cultivating predator-prey relationships and reducing the need for pesticides by adopting new pest management strategies that encourage beneficial insect popula-

tions.

Farmers from Lebanon, Philomath, Grants Pass and Portland are teaming with Oregon State University at Corvallis scientists. The goal is to limit farm pest populations by restor-

ing and conserving habitat for insects that perform important pollination and predation roles within fields and farms.

These beneficial insects come in many forms, but are often bees, spiders, or warrior beetles.

"Predacious ground beetles are the ground troops of the insect world," said Gwendolyn Ellen, the project lead for OSU's Farmscaping for Beneficials

Project. "They eat a range of pests from aphids to slugs, and as a result many farmers are very interested in creating habitat for them.

To serve this need we're working with farmers to build 'beetle banks' within their fields."

Beetle banks are swaths of raised land 4 to 6 feet wide in fields planted with native bunch grasses and provide shelter for predacious ground beetles.

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