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Council OKs drinking ban in city of CJ

An ordinance banning public drinking within city limits -- effective immediately -- was approved 5-0 by the Cave Junction City Council during its 39-minute meeting Monday night, May 11, in city hall.

The ordinance is effective at once because of an emergency clause. Kerby resident John Bowler protested the clause. He told the council that he could see no reason for declaring the matter an emergency.

Passage of the new rule was greeted by enthusiastic applause from the 18 citizens in the council chamber. Patricia Castle, of Ollis Road, was among the city residents who had been asking for the ordinance. She spoke on its behalf during a brief public hearing Monday night.

"I think it's about time," she said. "I'm all for it."

Ron Peralta, a city resident on Hanby Lane, asked Mayor Don Moore how the ordinance would be enforced. Moore replied that the city previously lacked the authority to have sheriff's deputies dump the beverages of public drinkers, but could do so under the new ordinance.

"That's the first step," Moore said. "If you take their alcohol away, I think they will go away." Moore emphasized the importance of passing the ordinance prior to the summer tourist season.

The council had passed a previous public drinking ordinance

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Public acts of art were witnessed by multitudes during Illinois River Valley Arts Council's Second Friday Art Walk in Downtown Cave Junction on May 8. (Above) Elaine Barker's I.V. High

School art students demonstrated cooperative chalk sidewalk painting. More photos on page 14. (Photo by Michelle Binker, *Illinois Valley News*)

Privacy upheld for concealed weapons

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Legislation is being advanced at the Oregon capitol in Salem to protect the privacy of concealed weapons permit holders.

On Monday, May 4, the Oregon House of Representatives passed House Bill 2727 on a 54-4 vote. If approved, the 12-page bill would exempt concealed handgun license information from disclosure under the state's open records law.

The issue emerged from a 2007 case in which South Medford High School English teacher Shirley Katz asked Medford Public Schools District for permission to bring a concealed weapon to work.

Katz insisted that she needed to take her pistol to work because she feared that her ex-husband could show up and try to harm

her. She said that she also was worried about a Columbine-style attack.

Her request was denied, but prompted the *Mail Tribune* newspaper to ask Jackson County Sheriff Mike Winters for a list of concealed weapons permit holders in the county.

Winters refused, which led to a court battle. A judge ruled in the newspaper's favor, and Winters began seeking a legislative remedy to the problem.

HB 2727 was referred to the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 20. A public hearing was held on March 10, and a work session conducted April 15. On April 24, the committee approved an amended version of the bill with a do-pass recommendation, and sent it to the full House for a vote.

Winters testified in favor of HB 2727 when it was still

in committee, and said that passing the bill is "the right thing to do."

"I think it's a win-win for everyone involved," Winters said. "I think this solves everything and protects people's safety, security and right to privacy."

HB 2727 leaves the decision of whether or not to release the information up to the sheriff of the county where the request is made, Winters said. Section 2 of the bill states that "the party seeking disclosure shall have the burden of showing that public disclosure would not constitute an unreasonable invasion of privacy."

Winters said that those provisions establish "clear guidelines on what needed to happen."

"This takes the ambiguity out of it," he said. "It's an important issue, and we need (Continued on page 4)

Man shot by deputy files federal lawsuit

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A multimillion dollar lawsuit has been filed in U.S. District Court against the Josephine County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) and other local entities and officials regarding a 2006 shooting incident in O'Brien.

On Feb. 26, 2006, the victim of a home invasion altercation in O'Brien phoned 911 to report the incident. JCSO deputies James Geiger and Alan Johnson responded, and encountered a vehicle on a driveway near the 37000 block of Redwood Hwy. Five people were in the car, including Kurtis Kern Korff.

Accounts differ as to what exactly happened next, but Korff ended up being shot in the head. The deputies reported that they were acting in self-defense.

Korff subsequently was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, first-degree attempted assault, and attempted murder. The latter stemmed from allegations that Korff tried to run Geiger over with the vehicle.

Korff's first criminal trial took place in June 2007, and ended in a mistrial. A retrial

started on Feb. 28, 2008.

A 10-member jury convicted Korff of the assault charge, but found him not guilty of attempted murder. Korff, who had already pleaded guilty to the weapons charge, was sentenced to 40 months in prison, with credit for time served.

According to court papers, Korff is currently an inmate at the Mill Creek Correctional Facility in Salem.

Anatomy of the Lawsuit

On Tuesday, April 28, Josephine County received the \$3 million lawsuit notification, which was filed by an attorney representing Korff. The county is listed as a defendant in the suit, along with JCSO, Geiger, Johnson, Sheriff Gil Gilbertson, the Oregon State Police, Josephine County Adult Corrections and Jeffrey Dovci.

Dovci had testified as a forensic expert for the prosecution during Korff's criminal case.

Among other items, the suit alleges that those persons and entities engaged in civil rights violations, conspiracy to interfere with civil rights violations and violation of the (Continued on page 10)

Cougar stalking Waldo

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

A Waldo Road family wants to warn residents of a possible cougar on the prowl in the Indian Hill Ranch area.

Marissa Northrup said that on the weekend of April 26, her family's two Barbados sheep were attacked by another animal.

The family thought it might have been one of their dogs, so Northrup's husband phoned the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife for an expert opinion. A cougar then became the likely suspect.

"We described the wounds to a sheep biologist, and he said it sounded like a classic case," Northrup said.

Further adding to the family's suspicion of a cougar is the fact that they found droppings on a recent hike.

"That was the first hint we had," she said.

The Northrups bought a 350-pound Hampshire sheep earlier this month. But on Sunday, May 3, they found it with puncture wounds and lacerations.

"We got him on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday afternoon, after we came back

from church, he was in the field," Northrup said.

The sheep was alive and still breathing, but had been partly eaten by what attacked it, she said.

"It ate through the ribs and ate the heart out," Northrup said.

Other aspects of the attacks make the family believe that a cougar must have been involved. For example, they only occur when the family isn't present.

"It knew, obviously, that there was a sheep there, so it must have been lying in wait," she said. "Our theory is that it was just hanging around, unfortunately."

Northrup said that her family has decided against getting any more sheep until the suspected cougar is either caught or killed. They also have posted flyers at stores to warn others, as cougars have a 40-mile roaming radius.

"It's not too heavily populated out this way, but there are people with livestock and kids," Northrup said. "I would hate to have something happen and have it be preventable."

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Goodwill Industries to close Cave Junction outlet

Goodwill Industries Cave Junction branch was not able to drive into Grants Pass to shop. The thrift store still

Week was Sunday through Saturday, May 3 to 9, just in time for the announcement that the Cave Junction Goodwill store will close Friday, May 15.

During 2007, Goodwill was a \$3.16 billion nonprofit organization. After several years serving Illinois Valley, Goodwill administrators decided that the Cave Junction store was not making enough money, and gave a two-week notice of closure.

"Our stores serve the function of funding our programs," said Suzy Lewis, Director of Retail & Operations from Goodwill Headquarters in Medford, "but the

Cave Junction branch was not able to drive into Grants Pass to shop. The thrift store still

and move up the career ladder so they can earn a living and support their families" since 1902, according to www.goodwill.org. Goodwill continues to offer employment and training services in Illinois Valley, said Breanna Fain, Josephine County area manager. *Make Parenting a Pleasure* parenting classes recently were sponsored by Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries as part of its Family Strengthening program.

CJ Goodwill clothing will be discounted 30 percent through May 15; then all merchandise will be shipped to the other Goodwill stores.

~Zina Booth

