

Commissioner candidate Lesh pitches 'Alaska Plan' at AFP

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

John Lesh, one of 11 candidates for Josephine County Commissioner Position 1, addressed members of the county chapter of Americans for Prosperity (AFP) during its meeting on the evening of Thursday, April 8 at a restaurant in Grants Pass.

Approximately 30 people were present, including commissioner candidates Rycke Brown, Ed Bowers and Simon Hare.

Lesh began by reading from a prepared statement. He said that he grew to admire commercial fishermen while attending high school in S.E. Alaska, and entered that occupation after graduating from high school and serving in the military.

Mostly, Lesh discussed his philosophy on governance.

"The growth of government was supposed to improve our benefits and make us more secure and prosperous," Lesh said. "But the result was the opposite."

Lesh lamented what he characterized as the gradual addition of regulations and bureaucracy.

"The people most affected were those who produce the products society uses to make our lives content," he said.

Americans were granted the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness by its founding fathers, Lesh said.

"These rights are blessings from God, not from government," Lesh said. "Our

government was formed to protect these rights. I believe that our primary responsibility is to live up to our Constitutional principles."

Whoever is elected commissioner, Lesh said, should "begin the task of dismantling the excessive rules, regulations, permits and high fees presently in place."



Lesh said that his platform consists of establishing a "strong pro-development position," compelling state and federal agencies to coordinate their plans with those of the counties, forming a savings account and having county government live within its means.

Also discussed by Lesh was a piece of his platform he dubbed the "Alaska Plan."

In the mid-1970s, Lesh said, Alaska began leasing land on its North Slope to companies for the development of natural resources. Those leases were "astronomically high," he said, but enabled the state to become immediately wealthy.

The state of Alaska took

money raised from non-renewable resources and began putting it into a fund, Lesh said. Approximately 75 percent of the money went toward funding government services, and the remainder was put into a "permanent fund," he said, that voters can access and politicians cannot.

Lesh said that throughout the years, his family received around \$30,000 in dividends from the state of Alaska, with checks ranging from \$200 to \$1,200.

Because of those policies, Lesh said Alaskans are "very savvy in voting" and tend to turn out heavily in elections.

"It makes them very interested," Lesh said.

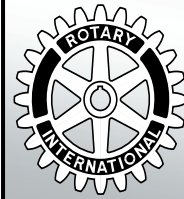
Lesh said that there is currently more than \$30 billion in Alaska's permanent fund. He said that a similar program could be established in Josephine County through revenue off the uses of resources on federally owned land, and stated the Alaska plan is an "idea that certainly has some merit."

But during a subsequent question-and-answer session, Bowers, also an Alaska native, said that Lesh's proposal "will not work here."

"Your program is unrealistic," Bowers said. "Run the numbers."

Bowers said that Alaska is the "greatest welfare state in America."

Lesh was set to respond to Bowers' remarks, but Jack Swift, chairman of the Josephine County AFP chapter, intervened. Swift said that the group does not allow debates at its meetings.



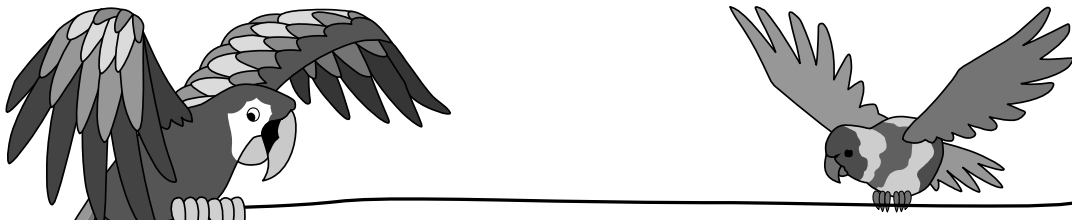
Rotary Club of Illinois Valley salutes Lorna Byrne Middle School Students of the Month



March Students of the Month** and Most Improved Students* were honored at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction. (Rear, from left) Samantha Frederick**, Jaycee Fredrickson*, Amanda Brooks**, Meagan Flores*, Patricia Gleason**, Maddie Parker**; (front, from left) Principal Damien Crowson, Scooter Boone*, Eric Miller**, Steven Humphries*, T.J. Buckmaster**. (Photo by Illinois Valley News)



Battle of the Books entrants from Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction did well at the Three Rivers School District competition Saturday, April 10. First-place champions are (rear, from left) Shawn Laney, Joss Vawter and Brian Bemis; the LBMS second-placers are (center, from left) Kynan Nordal, Russell Benson and Alia Parker; and taking fourth place were (front, from left) Samantha Milner, Nicolette Pinder, Celeste Meek and Misty Rhodes; and Edilet Rodriguez, not shown. Battle of the Books competitors must read a selected group of 12 books. They compete as teams to answer detailed questions about all the books. Their coach is Mary Trammell, LBMS science teacher. (Photo by Illinois Valley News)



Illinois Valley CHILDREN'S FAIR & PET PARADE

Saturday, May 1, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Jubilee Park

FUN ACTIVITIES & GIVE-AWAYS

- Face Painting
- Fishing Booth
- Free Snacks
- Bike Helmets
- Play Dough Fun
- Seed Planting
- Science Activity
- Child ID
- Beading
- Salmon Tent
- Lots More

PET PARADE

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION

10 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Dress up your pet!
Don't forget your leash!

SMALL PETS ONLY

CAR SEAT SAFETY

IV. Fire District will be on site to check car seats and boosters for proper installation.

Car Seats available at \$20 and \$10 for Booster Seats

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- I.V. Boys and Girls Club * I.V. Lions Club * I.V. Fire District
- I.V. Family Coalition * Aflac * Oregon Caves
- Siskiyou Field Institute * GP Masonic Lodge
- Kerby Belt Masonic Lodge * CJ Kiwanis Club
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Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose.
~ Author Unknown ~

- IVHS School Menu -

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THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Pasta with marinara / meat sauce, bean & cheese burrito, chicken burger, cheeseburger; cheese, barbecue chicken or supreme pizza; Italian or turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto or garden salad

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Nacho supreme, corn dog, spicy chicken burger; cheeseburger; pepperoni, cheese, supreme or taco pizza; ham & cheese or turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden or Mandarin chicken salad

MONDAY, APRIL 26

Beef soft tacos, chicken strips, spicy chicken burger, hamburger; pepperoni, cheese, vegetarian or sausage pizza; ham & cheese or turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden or Mandarin chicken salad

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Chicken fajitas, BBQ chicken sandwich, chicken burger, cheeseburger; pepperoni, cheese or Hawaiian pizza; Italian or turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto or garden salad

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

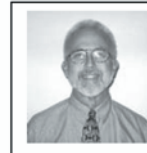
Taco salad, sweet & sour chicken rice bowl, spicy chicken burger, hamburger; pepperoni, sausage, cheese or Italian griller pizza; veggie or turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden or Mandarin chicken salad

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Link & Jennifer Krauss Phillippi, Chuck & Marilyn Taylor, and Jerry & Bertha Miller invite you to attend a private reception and dinner for Simon Hare,

candidate for Josephine County Commissioner

With introduction by Oregon State Senator Jason Atkinson

6 p.m. Friday, April 30
Wild River Pub, 533 N.E. F St. GP

Marsala Chicken catered by Wild River Pub
\$50 per person RSVP to 541-237-3999
or at votesimonhare@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Simon Hare
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