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Electrical fire closes print shop for now

By
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Arson was not a factor in the June 26 structure fire that destroyed Meriweather Print Design in the strip mall located on Lister Street in Cave Junction.

"Our investigation is complete. The cause of the fire was an electrical issue, near one of the outlets in a utility room," said Kamron Ismaili, Illinois Valley Fire District Division Chief.

After receiving a phone call, firefighters arrived on the scene at 7:45 a.m. and encountered heavy smoke coming from the roof. Fire crews quickly contained and then extinguished the blaze inside the print shop, according to Ismaili. No injuries were reported.

"The print shop was heavily damaged. The fire burned very slowly. The place cooked," Ismaili said.

Next door, Mansfield Cleary's law offices were impacted by smoke, but the other businesses in the mall were unaffected and remain open.

"Every single piece of equipment is ruined. It's sensitive equipment," said Jesse Robertson, who co-owns the print shop along with Alicia Gerber.

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(Photo by Dale Sandberg, IVFD Media Dept)

Cave Junction resident Susan Orah Tipton-Irwin, who is now in stable condition, was airlifted to Springfield following a two-vehicle collision on Takilma Road Tuesday, July 2. Robert E. Collins, also of Cave Junction, was treated and released from Three Rivers Community Hospital and subsequently cited for careless driving. Oregon State Police reported that the cause wreck was due to Collins taking his eyes off the road to deal with a pet in the vehicle. OSP, Illinois Valley Fire District and American Medical Response all responded to the scene.

Threes and eights hold reunions

By
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Donors and well-wishers were dropping off auction items and voters' ballots as phones rang and old friends greeted each other. While activity swirled around her, Chris Leppert was the picture of calm Friday in advance of "Reunionmania Weekend." After all, she's been organizing these events since 1973.

Asked why she would make such a volunteer commitment for 40 years, Leppert answered simply, "It's kept me active with old friendships and brought me new ones, too!"

The corresponding secretary for the Association of IVHS Alumni and Friends, Leppert presides over planning which begins in December and starts in earnest in January each year in preparation for the annual Independence Day weekend activities. To implement its mission, this registered non-profit organization assists class reunions, locates and main-

tains school memorabilia and for the past 23 years, provides scholarships for IVHS seniors.

Graduates of Kerby Union High, which closed in 1949, or IVHS, which opened in the fall of that year, are eligible to join the unique association. The five members of the screening committee, retired teachers from all three public schools and one representative from every class year selected the three scholarship recipients. Scholarships awarded this year came from funds raised last year.

See Reunions on A-8

Legalizing medical marijuana dispensaries awaits signature

By
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Oregon's Legislature passed House Bill 3460 last Saturday, and if the governor signs it, medical marijuana retail dispensaries will be legalized and licensed statewide. The bill is designed to ease the way for medical pot users to get their medicine and make it harder for the black market to get a hold of Oregon-grown weed.

Oregon law currently permits about 55,000 cardholders to either grow marijuana themselves or designate someone to grow it for them. Many medical pot users insist they need dispensaries to provide a reliable source for their medicine, that the current system of growing pot yourself or being forced to engage in the drama of finding someone to grow it for you

is unrealistic and prohibitive for many patients with serious medical conditions.

Approximately 200 unregulated medical marijuana dispensaries, collectives and cafes currently operate in Oregon and run the risk of being shut down by law enforcement. While some counties, like Multnomah, mostly look the other way and allow these dispensaries to stay open, others, like Jackson and Washington Counties, have sent the police in to shut the businesses down.

The bill creates infrastructure within the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program to enable the state to better regulate the medicinal pot retail industry and ensure safety. State licensed dispensaries will be required to test the marijuana they sell for mold, mildew and pesticides. By March 2014, the Oregon Health Authority, which oversees the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program, will present new rules and regulations

on marijuana testing, security and other issues.

Medical marijuana retail outlets will be prohibited from existing within 1,000 feet of each other or a school. The dispensaries will need to operate in agricultural, industrial or commercial areas and stay out of residential areas.

While Oregonians twice voted down similar ballot initiatives, HB 3460, which passed 18-12, means Oregon will likely join a dozen other states currently permitting medical marijuana dispensaries or retail outlets. One legislative report estimates there will be about 225 state-licensed dispensaries in the next two years if the governor signs the bill, and many pundits say he will.

The bill will require medical marijuana retailers to pay \$4,000 a year to remain registered and facility owners will need to pass criminal background checks, document the marijuana

coming into their shops and verify that it comes only from state-registered growers. The bill also authorizes growers to legally sell their excess weed to medical marijuana establishments, though growers could only charge for the cost of supplies and utilities.

Supporters say the bill represents a huge victory for medical marijuana advocates and acknowledges that overall, the medical marijuana industry, while barely legal, is a growing force in the economy, especially in impoverished rural areas, and should be sanctioned and regulated.

Opponents counter that the bill won't prevent what they say are abuses to the state's medical marijuana program. Several dissenting lawmakers also argued that authorizing dispensaries may help facilitate a faster track to legalizing marijuana for recreational use.

See Bill on A-10

More than art in July Art Walk

By
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A Festival of Farmers Markets will be one highlight of the July 12 Second Friday ArtWalk. Both will be open from 4 to 7 p.m. only, offering fresh local produce, flowers, goods and live music. Both markets accept SNAP and WIC payments.

The Cave Junction Farmers Market will continue their weekly offerings in the area between C.J. Chevron and the Visitor Center. I.V. Friday Farmers' Market routinely moves between Selma and the parking lot behind the DMV. ArtWalk marks their annual Cave Junction Opening Day. Community partners include I.V. Safe House Alliance, the OSU Master Gardeners and OSU

Master Food Preservers. Cave Junction dates for this rotating event will be July 12 and 26, August 9 and 23, and September 6 and 20.

Robert and Cheryl Jones have opened their own mini-mall of businesses in the former feed store across from Shop Smart. Petals 'N Thyme is a flower and gift shop, Outdoor Sport 'N Feed supplies equipment and pet food, and "Eye Catchers" produces signs and banners. ArtWalk Featured Artist Cheryl Williams Dolan will present "Explore Our World," a show and sale of acrylic landscapes. The July I.V. Chamber of Commerce business mixer will also take place here. Under the awning, the Sam Soul Trio featuring Motel Jones will play for the crowd.

Further south, ArtWalk welcomes the Junction Inn, which is

now operating under the direction of new manager Patty McKay. The restaurant will feature rib eye steaks and salad bar and the lounge will offer Ladies' Night free admission for the D.J.-led entertainment. Be sure to check out the rugs, blankets and tie-dye vendors in the parking area along with Captain Jonny Rush and the Red Dog Bus offering fresh fish and CD's to Cave Junction residents and visitors for only a few weeks.

Across the street, The Bead Cave will feature Helen Birchard's keepsake crystal jewelry and the fascinating folk art of Robin Marquez, made from recycled and repurposed materials. Be sure to ask about this month's discount promotion.

In the center of town, Taylor's Country Store will feature Now and Then Trio and the inspired art of Si-

erra Hanni. Dinner specials include wild salmon or bacon-wrapped chicken breasts along with regular menu items. Next door, Commune I Tea will feature Afro-centric fine art of Tyler Rites Swanson. They will also offer organic dinners to be enjoyed in the garden, organic plants for sale and music.

Diggin' Livin' Farm Store will feature watercolors by Barb Leon, along with their regular stock of organic produce, honey, and bee products and supplies. Out in front, the L.I.V.E. group will sell pet rocks to raise funds for the bioswale project at Evergreen Elementary; and Ravenswood Gallery will be presenting some new art and special ArtWalk activities.

Further north, Get Somes will feature tie-dye fun and invites the

public to bring their clothes to be dyed or select from their new stock. Purchases qualify for a china hutch drawing in September. Next door, Cave Junction Acupuncture will feature watercolors depicting the beauty of nature by Deborah Dawson. Owner Jennifer Folkerts will offer free community acupuncture during ArtWalk as well as sessions by donation on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at noon.

From the Farmers Market behind the DMV, stroll through the garden gate between City Hall and Josephine Community Library to view student art by Mrs. Bosse's second grade class on the theme of possible bioswale designs for the school.

See Art on A-8