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St. Pats celebrates 150 years

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A flurry of activity is taking place at St. Patrick's of the Forest Catholic Church in preparation for an important commemoration: the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the original church and its cemetery in 1864 – only five years after Oregon became a state. This was the first Catholic church in Josephine County, located in Allen Gulch, a mining community about 12 miles south of Cave Junction.

This week, almost two dozen volunteers assembled at the church on March 8 to landscape the grounds and spruce up the building. Special choral music is being rehearsed and special guests, including Archbishop Alexander Sample of the Portland Archdiocese, will participate in the celebration.

The sesquicentennial celebration will take place on the actual dedication date, March 17, St. Patrick's Day. Archbishop Sample will preside over a special Mass at 6 p.m. with co-celebrants Father William Holtzinger, and Father Jose Campos. The Knights of Columbus will also attend the Mass. Cake and coffee will be served immediately following.

On March 16, the Altar Society will host a potluck dinner following the usual Sunday Mass.

See St. Pats on A-8



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Link Phillippi at the site of a new board sorter at the soon to re-open Rough & Ready Lumber Mill, Monday, March 10.

Rough & Ready ramps up

By
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Just a year after closing down, the nearly 100-year-old Rough & Ready Lumber Mill received a \$5 million funding package comprised of tax credits and a state loan to facilitate upgrades to its small log mill, which means the business will be back on track this summer.

The announcement was made at Cascade Wood Products in White City last week and Gov. John Kitzhaber, who attended the news conference, said the funding will enable Rough & Ready, an important employer in Josephine County, to help extend the economic recovery occurring from Portland to rural southern Oregon.

"The restart of a family owned business that provides family wage jobs for its employees is a reason to celebrate," Kitzhaber said.

"We plan to have 67 people working sometime

in June," said mill owner Jennifer Phillippi. "We kept quiet about this because we didn't want to raise hopes among our old employees until we knew for sure it would happen. The job openings will be posted with the state's Employment Department in Grants Pass. Like any employer, we're required to fairly assess all applicants, though I assume that our former employees, with all the skills they developed while working at our mill, will be good fits for the new jobs."

See Mill on A-10

State allows ban on pot sales for one year

By
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Last Friday, the Oregon State Senate approved a bill giving temporary authority to local governments to block medical marijuana dispensaries until May 2015. The bill also provides clarity to cities and counties regarding their authority to regulate dispensaries in locations where they are allowed.

The bill is a compromise, as numerous local governments wanted permanent authority to enact bans. While refusing this request, state lawmakers did give cities and counties permanent authority to control the hours and locations of medical pot stores.

Cities and small towns all over the state have been busily enacting bans since Oregon voted to allow medical marijuana dispensaries in August 2013. Many within the medical marijuana industry were optimistic that the bans would be overridden by statewide legislation and, last month, Oregon's senate approved a bill that prohibited the smaller jurisdictions from banning the dispensaries. It was this bill that was amended last week to allow local governments to enact the one-year moratoriums.

In a joint letter to House members, the Association of Oregon Counties, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and Oregon State Sheriffs' Association said they intend to offer legislation next year that would serve to repeal the May 2015 sunset clause on the local bans. For their part, the state legislators say they will review and likely revisit the issue in 2015.

The state's pot dispensary registration website, up and running a few weeks ago, received almost 300 applications in its first 24 hours of operation. There was at least one application from Josephine County, though state officials will not identify that location, claiming confidentiality rules prevent them from disclosing that information in counties where less than ten applications have been made. Jackson County had the third highest number of applications for medical marijuana dispensaries in the state on Monday, behind Multnomah and Lane counties. With the recent wave of bans on pot dispensaries bolstered by the one-year moratorium, the new bill provides a refund option to dispensary owners who had already paid the \$4,000 fee to register their pot shops.

More than 20 cities currently have zoning ordinances banning medical marijuana dispensaries, with another 14 imposing temporary moratoriums; and at least two counties, so far, have passed similar measures applying to unincorporated areas. Last week, the Medford City Council gave initial approval to a moratorium on marijuana dispensaries.

See sales on A-8



City council takes on medical marijuana

By
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The Cave Junction City Council held their regularly scheduled meeting on March 10. Nearly three dozen citizens were in attendance, many of them interested in the council's policy review of medical marijuana dispensaries inside city limits.

Councilor Dan Dalegowski had researched the issue and assembled a six-page analysis including a chart comparing other Oregon city policies and a map showing the four schools within Cave Junction city limits and commercial zones which extend one block on either side of Redwood and Caves Highways.

During the public comment period, many citizens spoke passionately in favor of the dispensaries for a variety of reasons including increased commerce and compassion for those in need of this powerful medicine. Several spoke of the legal system which unfairly punishes medical marijuana users and the belief that the timber, pharmaceutical and medical industries had lobbied to create these laws.

County Commissioner candidate Nina Horsley stated there are 50,000 potential hemp products and that farmers

were mandated to grow the crop during World War II.

County Commissioner candidate Mark Seligman gave the example of greater prosperity enjoyed by Garberville, Calif., compared to Cave Junction.

"I'm for legalization of this industry," he said. "We have a chance to rise out of this poverty. This will eventually be legal nation-wide."

Several speakers compared the superiority of medical marijuana over pharmaceuticals for pain relief and inflammatory diseases. One mentioned that one in 19 people in Josephine County already have medical marijuana cards.

One man stated he had lost everything and was thrown on the street following his quadruple bypass surgery because he was caught with medical marijuana. Another stated his prescription for synthetic heroin had nearly killed him, but that medical marijuana managed his pain without side effects.

City councilors voted to meet for a workshop in council chambers at 7 p.m. March 17 to further discuss dispensaries. All city council meetings are open to the public, but the councilors may choose whether or not to accept public comment.

In other business, the council received a report by Maureen Connelly

comparing three concept proposals by skatepark manufacturers for the planned facility in Jubilee Park. Connelly recommended Grindline Skateparks over Canadina Ramp Company and Dreamland Skateparks LLC.

"This design will allow younger skaters to use the park without interfering with more experienced skaters," she said.

Organizers are planning a construction start date of May 19 with completion by June 30. Non-circulating copies of the three manufacturer's proposals are available at the front desk of city hall for the public to review. Mayor Carl Jacobson announced a March 24 special meeting at I.V. High School to award the contract.

He also encouraged all valley students in grades 4 through 12 to submit entries in the Oregon Mayors Association "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." contest. First prize is an iPad Air and applications are available at city hall. The submission deadline is March 28.

Additionally, the mayor appealed to interested Cave Junction residents to join the Budget Committee, which has three openings.

The Council also approved a Little League request for amplified sound at Jubilee Park for the April 5 Opening Day and Closing Day in June.