



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Valley artist Ben Campbell known as Wilderness performed at McGrew’s Saturday, March 15. Campbell was one of many area performers that donated their time to help raise money needed to open the outdoor stage at McGrew’s in time for summer.

Earthquake Preparedness

Cascadia: What to expect when we’re expecting the Big One.

Presented by Dr. Althea Rizzo, Geologic Hazards Program Coordinator for Oregon Office of Emergency Management

Josephine County is hosting a forum focusing on the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) and what to expect in the event of an earthquake. The Cascade Subduction Zone, also known as the Cascadia fault, stretches from northern Vancouver Island south to northern California. The last known earthquake of the CSZ was January 1700’s. Geological data tells us this fault remains active. Earthquakes have happened repeatedly in the past, and will hap-

pen again.

We just don’t know when.

The next big quake is anticipated to cause widespread damage throughout the entire Pacific Northwest. Knowing what to expect and steps you can take now to prepare yourself will ease many concerns. We all have a role in earthquake preparedness and response. Attend the seminar listed below to learn more.

This seminar is free and open to the public.

Friday April 18th, 2014

1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

Josephine County Fairgrounds, Floral Building, 1451 Fairgrounds Road, Grants Pass.

Fire ... Continued from A-1

Hoke told the county’s commissioners that it is “time for action,” and he notes that while the sheriff’s office has been whittled down to a skeleton crew, that there’s been about ten new hires in other county departments in the past two years.

“Public safety of this county has got to be the commissioners’ number one concern,” Hoke said. “They need to address this problem head-on and fund the patrol division of the sheriff’s office. Right now, we have no public safety. This situation could end in tragedy, and my fear is that an emergency responder could lose their life. It could’ve happened last week. I’m all for the state stepping in to provide a solution to this situation, if that’s what it takes.”

“Hoke has identified the severe consequence that the county is experiencing today,” said Commissioner Keith Heck. “He’s speaking well to the frustration that we’re all feeling. Now, the citizens have a choice to make with the new criminal justice levy. If they like the situation as it is, they’ll vote against it, but if people want to bring some positive response to the current situation, then they need to support the levy.”

The proposed criminal justice levy on the May ballot would cost tax payers \$1.19 per assessed thousand dollars of property value annually, for five years, costing the average homeowner \$14 dollars per month. This levy would fund only the Adult Jail and the Juvenile Justice program. The rationale is that with those key areas funded, then money currently available for criminal

justice can be utilized to fund additional patrol deputies.

“The Adult Jail is critical, criminals need to know they’ll face consequences,” said Josephine County Sheriff Gil Gilbertson. “But I also believe our number one priority is to respond to people when they call for help.”

“Thankfully, this new levy is citizen generated. It didn’t come from the commissioners,” Heck said. “And we’ve already signed a letter stating that funds currently being used for the jail (that the levy would replace) would stay in the sheriff’s budget.”

The agreement would split \$2 million between the district attorney’s office and the sheriff’s office, as of July 1, 2014, when the new fiscal year begins.

“I’m looking forward to helping rebuild the safety of this community,” Gilbertson said. “If I get \$1 million of this, I’ll still have to hire some records and dispatch people to accommodate putting additional deputies on the road, but whatever share of funding I get will go towards shoring up the patrol functions. And when we bring these deputies back, we’ll work them out of the substations in Cave Junction and Merlin.”

The Oregon State Police has been filling the gaps in the county’s law enforcement capability.

“We’re doing the best we can,” said OSP Lieutenant Gregg Hastings. “Police response can be a long ways away, but the state legislature has given us approval to hire 14 additional state troopers in 2015. Ten will be in patrol cars and five will be assigned to the Grants Pass office.”

Workshop ... Continued from A-1

Polk also advocated getting a written legal opinion from circuit court through a writ of mandamus, an order from a superior court to a public authority to do, or refrain from doing, some specific act which that body is obliged under law to do (or refrain from doing). The mandamus can be used to order the court to rule on the applications. This would allow city councilors to act under legal guidance as opposed to relying on their own opinions, which could expose them to lawsuits in the future.

The mandamus could protect them, but also tie their hands in making the decision. Councilors also discussed economic benefits from allowing a dispensary, including enhanced tourism and job creation; as well as potential locations where the dispensary could be located.

At the end of the workshop, Mayor Carl Jacobson asked the audience for an informal straw poll as to whether they were for or against dispensaries. Of the dozen audience members, only one was against dispensaries.

Town Hall ... Continued from A-1

On Tuesday, February 18, a group of about 30 Ken Rose area residents met at the County Building to draft a fire and emergency preparedness plan for the 200-home subdivision south of Cave Junction.

Kameron Ismaili of the I.V. Fire District and Brian Ballou, Oregon Department of Forestry, each gave presentations offering their support and advice. Ballou said, “In this subdivision you have only one way out. You will need to create more options if that way is blocked. Having a fire plan and testing it is important.”

“Crown fires are unstoppable,” Is-

maili said. “They create their own storm and move very fast. Safe zones and escape routes are a must, including a phone tree and early detection of fire. Smoke kills more people than anything else.”

Retired firefighter Bill Borja, volunteer I.V. firefighter Neil Kisiela, and Nina Horsely are members of the Watch’s Fire Plan Committee, which began meeting last July. They’ve done an extensive review of the area and have engaged with BLM personnel on adjoining lands and with Pacific Power regarding the power line road and land management matters.

Subdivision maps and an Emer-

gency Preparedness Questionnaire were issued at the February meeting to gather information on needs and resources in the neighborhood to supplement the fire plan. Watch members from Dick George, Cave’s Highway and the Selma Neighborhood groups were also present.

The April 1 follow-up meeting is designed to finalize the Ken Rose Neighborhood Fire Plan. There will also be an Open Agenda section for community members to address their topics or concerns. For more information, contact Guenter Ambron at 541-592-4124 or email him at cmec@cavenet.com.

10 EASY STEPS TO KILL YOUR BUSINESS

1. DON’T ADVERTISE... Just pretend everyone knows what you have to offer.
2. DON’T ADVERTISE... Tell yourself you just don’t have time to spend thinking about promoting your business.
3. DON’T ADVERTISE... Just assume everyone knows what you sell.
4. DON’T ADVERTISE... Forget that there are new potential customers who would do business with you if they were invited to do so.
5. DON’T ADVERTISE... Convince yourself that you’ve been in business so long customers will automatically come to you.
6. DON’T ADVERTISE... Forget that you have competition trying to attract your customers away from you.
7. DON’T ADVERTISE... Tell yourself it costs too much to advertise, and that you don’t get enough out of it.
8. DON’T ADVERTISE... Overlook the fact that advertising is an investment in selling - not an expense.
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