

Sandi ... Continued from A-1

The group that drove Cassanelli’s previous removal from office, “Citizens For Positive Government,” charged she’d acted unprofessionally, attempted to violate the county charter in the process of filling a vacancy on the county board, hindered economic development and didn’t support public safety, among other things.

Cassanelli made a statement calling the allegations “bo-gus, vague, exaggerated or simply false.”

“One candidate has already proven she won’t cave under pressure, won’t betray her campaign promises and won’t compromise on conservative principles,” Cassanelli said. “That’s me. I didn’t give up on Josephine County even when city cronies filed unlawful recall petitions and the county clerk looked the other way to illegally certify them.”

“Overall, if you want to strike fear into the hearts of the ‘Good Old Boys,’ vote for me,” Cassanelli said. “Remember, Josephine County cannot be taxed into prosperity.”

Cassanelli’s varied professional background includes a bachelor’s degree in marine biology, which she utilized by working as an Assistant Survey Technician for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and as a Laboratory Technician for the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District. As she’d always wanted to “sail the high seas,” Cassanelli then joined the merchant marines, working on oil tankers, a job that brought her to the west coast.

She was captivated by southern Oregon’s beauty and moved to Williams 26 years ago and has lived in Merlin for the past 11 years. She’s held many jobs and roles in the county, including serving on local election boards; teaching community education at Rogue Community College; and most recently, a producer and videographer for community access TV.

While serving as commissioner, Cassanelli helped negotiate the contract with the county to facilitate the take-over of the buildings that now house the Smokejumper’s Museum.

“The county and airport manager at that time wanted to tear those buildings down and I fought real hard to prevent that,” Cassanelli said. “A marvelous job has been done at renovating the buildings, all those guys worked really hard. I’m very proud of them. The county was making things very difficult, but now the museum is a real crown jewel in the Il-linois Valley.”

“The IV Airport really has some of the best potential for light industrial and commercial development, all that’s need-ed is a water source for fire suppression,” Cassanelli said. “At the county level, people always think of the Merlin Industrial Park as the place to support, yet the IV Airport is far closer to being ready to accommodate new development and needs relatively little infrastructure to get it up and running, far less than what the Merlin site would require. As commissioner I would work to promote this effort for the Illinois Valley.”

James Rossi runs for commissioner on anti-corruption campaign

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Contributing Writer

James Rossi has lived in Grants Pass for 22 years. Originally from California, Rossi, an Independent, has owned and operated collision repair shops in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and in Lake Tahoe, Ne-vada, before relocating to Oregon.

“The main reason I’m running is because I’ve been fighting the corruption in Josephine County and the criminal jus-tice system for over 20 years,” Rossi said. “Now, I want to serve the residents of the county and carry on the good fight at that level.”

Rossi says he has a personal example of the problems he aims to highlight.

“I’m presently facing a year in jail, over a minor traffic accident that resulted in a dimple the size of a dime in a wom-an’s license plate,” Rossi said.

After backing up, Rossi hit the wom-an’s car, and he says both the woman and the Grants Pass City Police filed false re-ports to the DMV and the DA’s office about the incident. Rossi says he was “wrongly prosecuted” in February for failure to per-form the duties of a driver that requires anyone involved in an accident to stop at

the scene and share their personal infor-mation — a charge he flatly denies.

“Also, this was a civil matter and I told the woman I’d buy her a new license plate,” Rossi said. “But this ended up in court where I was denied the right to hire counsel and was forced to trial without an attorney. Then both the state’s witness and the police filed false information. The DA and judge even refused to allow me to in-troduce my driver’s license and proof of insurance as evidence.”

“Three months after the incident, the woman filed a claim for \$250, and then several months later, she filed an-other claim for over \$1,100,” Rossi said. “I was not allowed to file into evidence the second false report, so now I face a year in jail over a dime-sized dimple in a license plate, in an incident where the police and the DA should never have been involved.”

Rossi says he also knows of an in-cident where a driver destroyed a street sign, 16 feet of guard rail, sheared off a two-foot diameter guard pole, drove into a man’s house and caused over \$50,000 in damage, then backed out of the house and left the scene. According to Rossi, the homeowner chased the driver down, then both the sheriff’s department and the Or-egon State Police showed up, where the

driver then admitted to what he did, “but the guy didn’t even get a ticket.”

“This is why I’m running for com-missioner,” Rossi said. “I have been outspoken against the public safety lev-ies and corruption in the court house. So they’re playing payback on me. I’ll get these charges overturned on appeal. I’m already out \$15,000 and will spend much more getting it overturned. This story will go out there nationally before this is all over.”

Rossi also said the Grants Pass Cou-rier won’t print the story about his con-flict with the DA’s office and local law enforcement “because they protect the government.”

Regarding public safety, if elected, Rossi says he’d promote the gun policies on the books in Kenshaw, Georgia, where an ordinance requires adults to own a fire-arm (though residents can opt out of the requirement with a five dollar permit).

“Kanshaw has the lowest crime rate in the country,” Rossi said. “The crooks know everyone is armed, so they don’t fool around there.”

For economic development, Rossi would promote more logging and mining and reduce start up fees for new business development in the county.

Murder ... Continued from A-1

The release names 25-year-old Michael McCoy as the victim. McCoy was transferred to Portland’s Oregon Health Sciences University in critical condition with a knife wound to the head and later died.

Detectives developed suspect information and obtained a search warrant for Bones’ residence that was served by the Depart-ment of Public Safety SWAT team with assistance from patrol officers, K-9 units and Oregon State Troopers.

Officers searched several buildings on the property and eventually located Bones’ hiding place and took him into custody without incident.



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