

Commissioners ... Continued from A-1

Cassanelli also decried giving the Public Employees Retirement System a seven percent pay adjustment and said, “You need somebody to say no to all this stuff.”

Walters stated that he’s opposed to metering wells. He also said, “I’d like to see a task force find county funding that’s stable. I’ve got a whole bunch of ideas,” but declined to give specifics to prevent other candidates from taking his ideas. A publisher for over 12 years, he encouraged the audience to visit his NewsWithViews.com website to get a good idea of his philosophy.

Walters stated the idea of expanding OCNM is part of Agenda 21. “They want to get you out of the country and put you in the city,” he said.

Sisson expressed concerns for the state of county schools and said he has personally met with the four high school principals regarding improving graduation rates.

“They don’t have the tools they need to keep these kids in school,” he said. “It’s the same thing with nutrition. The government is wasting money on junk food. You can buy three times more pre-packaged food than fresh produce because food manufacturers are subsidized. My slogan is ‘I work for you.’ I want to help people so they don’t have to choose between food and medicine.”

Sisson also suggested creating a workforce of unemployed building professionals to help people fix up their properties to improve energy conservation.

Horsley and Wichers both contend that the commissioner salaries should be reduced to the level stipulated in the county charter — \$30,000.

Horsley also suggested giving control of the county jail to the state.

“If the state requires the county to have a jail, then they should run it,” she said. “We should put the sheriff’s personnel where they’re needed, in the substations.”

All the candidates expressed their opposition to Genetically Modified Organisms and support for “Yes on 17-58.”



(Courtesy photo for The Illinois Valley News)

Student of the Year for 2013-2014 school year: Edonavin Iverson in Mrs. Wolter’s 5th grade class He lives with his grandparents: Grandpa - Gregory Horton; Grandma - Michele Horton.

Library petition deadline set

The three chief petitioners for the Josephine Community Library District—Sara Katz, Martin Seybold, and DonnaJean Wendle—will submit signatures in support of the district to the Josephine County Clerk on Tuesday, April 22, at 2:00 p.m. at the County Clerk’s office at 500 NW C St. in Grants Pass.

Led by petition drive coordinator Dick Cottrill, over 150 volunteers for the Keep Our Libraries Open (KOLO) political action committee have been gathering signatures on a petition to place a library district on the November ballot. Petitioners are optimistic that they will exceed their goal of 10,000 signatures. Volunteers will continue gathering signatures until they receive official word from the County Clerk’s Office that they have enough signatures.

The library district initiative will create a self-governed library system serving all of Josephine County with a rate of 39 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Five community members will be elected at large to serve as board members of the Josephine Community Library District.

The library district will provide stable funding to help meet the ever-increasing demand for library services that are far exceeding available resources. Brady Adams, former president of Evergreen Federal Bank and honorary chair of the political action committee “Keep Our Libraries Open”, says stable funding for the libraries is more important than ever. “We need a

sustainable library system with more hours and resources for families, especially those engaged in workforce training,” Adams explained.

Keep Our Libraries Open (KOLO) is a registered Oregon political action committee (ID #14922) made up of a group of citizens dedicated to passing a library district measure on the November 2014 ballot. Anyone interested in getting involved with the library district effort can send an e-mail to info@keepourlibrariesopen.com. Those interested in donating can send a check or money order payable to “Keep Our Libraries Open” to 106 NW F St, #258, Grants Pass, OR 97526 or make a secure donation at www.keepourlibrariesopen.com.

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