

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, June 25, 2014, 1 Section, 12 Pages, Volume 77 No. 16 Published Weekly Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

illinois-valley-news.com

Walker fights back against recall effort

By Kevan Moore
IVN Staff

Josephine County Commissioner Cherryl Walker is fighting back against a recall effort.

The recall petition against Walker was filed June 13 in the Josephine County Clerk's office. William Hunter, the chief recall petitioner, along with Joseph Rice of the local Oath Keepers group, carried the petition to the clerk's office.

"For more than a dozen years there has been a small group of disgruntled people who have tried to intimidate public officials and citizens from public participation in Josephine County meetings," Walker said in a written statement. "Their mode of operation has been name calling and making disparaging comments about private citizens who disagreed with them, verbally attack county employees, demonize elected officials and create a hostile environment in the Anne Basker Auditorium

See Walker on A-9



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Frankie Hernandez (right) joins local favorite Alecyon Massive during the 12th Annual Barter Faire. Massive plays in Takilma at the Takilma Community Building Saturday, June 28 and Hernandez will be at Deer Creek Vineyards in Selma Sunday, June 29.

Barter Faire was a success for all involved

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

The 12th annual Hope Mountain Barter Faire was held off Holland Loop road last weekend and attracted a few thousand participants who enjoyed three days of music, food, workshops, camaraderie, and of course, the bartering, buying, selling and trading.

"The Barter Faire takes us back to an ancient tradition that was about people sharing their goods, services, skills and knowledge," said Stacey Williams, a key organizer of many past Barter Faires. "It's all about networking, learning what's happening with each other and finding ways to turn off the TV and connect with things that are real."

The Barter Faire is organized by Youth

Empowerment and Support (Y.E.S.), a local non-profit group that also worked closely with Cave Junction city officials to promote the new skatepark at Jubilee Park.

"We really appreciate the tolerance and good humor that many neighbors have for this great cause," said Y.E.S. board member Susan Gustafson. "Many of these neighbors attend the faire and see for themselves what's going on. We're all about connecting and sharing."

Gustafson noted how the Barter Faire generated \$12,000 in profits that were donated to the Dome School in Takilma the past few years, and said she expects a similar grant to be made from this year's proceeds.

The Valley's economy gets a boost from the Barter Faire as participants and vendors traveling into area also patronize businesses, though many vendors are local folks.

"A lot of us have these small cottage in-

dustries," said Laurel Glenn, who has been living in the Valley for 18 years. "We depend on the event as part of our income, and it's beneficial for everyone when money stays here in the Valley."

Glenn reproduces ancient Indian beaded designs as well as contemporary designs for belts and hats. She also creates clothing that is "inspired by our ancestors and designed for our descendants." Another of her specialties are beautifully beaded hanging hummingbird decorations.

"I traded some of my wares for an old Singer treadle sewing machine," Glenn said. "We also trade techniques and bounce ideas off each other and this helps solve problems and inspires us. And getting to know one another is great. We're all neighbors and self-made entrepreneurs."

The Faire featured a "Kid's Village"

where children enjoyed a variety of activities and planned one of the event's highlights: the Sunday afternoon "Kids Parade," which also featured the Coyote Rising Giant Puppets.

A key dignitary at the Faire was Agnes Baker Pilgrim, the oldest living representative of the Takelma native people that once populated the area. Pilgrim, now almost 90 years old, has been honored as a "Living Treasure" by the Confederated Tribes of Siletz; and as a "Living Cultural Legend" by the Oregon Council of the Arts.

Affectionately known as "Grandma Aggie," Pilgrim is an exceptionally clear and strong speaker whose no-nonsense eloquence has touched people of many different cultures in the U.S. and around the world. Pilgrim had high praise for the artists who came to display, sell and trade their work.

See Faire on A-9

Familiar face is back on the beat in CJ

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing

Josephine County Sheriff's Office Deputy Travis Snyder is back on the beat in Cave Junction.

"I've been on board again for a few weeks and there's already been some excitement," Snyder said.

Snyder served as Cave Junction's contract deputy last year, but was transferred to the county jail as a result of reduced staffing levels. But, now he's been reassigned to the Cave Junction position once again.

"I'm just out there trying to do my job, keep people happy and chase the bad guys," Snyder said. "Countywide, there's a climate in law enforcement that's not right, mostly due to budget constraints. I'm doing my best with what I have to work with."

Carol Dickson, a former deputy sheriff for Josephine County, is happy to have Snyder back in town.

"As the administrator of the virtual neighborhood watch page for the Illinois Valley, I feel I have a finger

on the pulse of the crime and law enforcement efforts in the area," Dickson said. "I've seen a marked increase in police presence in the first week since Deputy Travis Snyder rotated back to the Illinois Valley. He has patrolled Jubilee Park, issued citations, made felony warrant arrests and taken reports. I would like the city council to know we have noticed the difference in productivity."

A native Oregonian and a 16-year veteran with the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, Snyder says overall crime levels are on the rise because criminals are bolder.

"We have some 'frequent flyers' that I'm aware of, but there's some new up-and-comers in the bad element that are emerging as well," Snyder said. "We catch some repeat offenders and send them off to jail, but new crooks fill their spots and the new ones sometimes come off like bigger, badder criminals. It's a cycle that keeps on going."

Snyder said it's hard to tell if crime is worse in Cave Junction than other rural areas, but he believes that communities definitely benefit when they have adequate law

enforcement and ample jail beds to fill.

"These problems aren't unique to Cave Junction, but there are more criminals who are savvy enough to stick to the outlying areas where law enforcement is thin," Snyder said. "It's kind of a criminal's way of adapting."

Snyder said that's why getting to know your neighbors and participating in the neighborhood watches is so important.

"A criminal's number one goal is to go undetected," Snyder said. "They want to remain invisible and they don't like it when people become more vigilant and start networking. It's the same strategy we use in law enforcement, we network with other agencies and the public. Anytime we share information we're more effective."

Snyder says everyone should have the names and phone numbers of people living on their streets or in their immediate neighborhoods, because "information is stronger when it is collaborated by five people instead of just one person." He added that it "works wonders"

See Snyder on A-9

Speeders beware, changes in police tactics to come

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

Cave Junction's law enforcement priorities were the topic of discussion when city councilors met with staff in an evening public workshop Tuesday, June 17.

City Recorder Ryan Nolan had suggested creating a list of specific goals and objectives for the contract deputy position in advance of the new contract year. Several councilors and many residents have expressed disappointment at the way the previous deputy prioritized duties over the past year.

In an earlier workshop on April 16, Municipal Court Judge J.E. Davis and Court Clerk Rebecca Patton had met with city councilors and Contract Deputy Joel Heller to discuss whether to continue holding municipal court, since Heller was writing so few tickets.

The dollar amount of tickets in 2010 was \$40,500 and impounds generated \$6,400 in fines. By fiscal year 2013, those figures had dropped to \$18,300 and \$1,000 respectively. By April, three-quarters through fiscal year 2014, only \$4,354 in tickets have been written and only \$100 in impound fees had been collected.

This followed a drop in public safety funds from over \$20 million in 2011-12 to \$8,468,000 in 2012-13, when a final extra O&C Secure Rural Schools Act payment was made to the county. The 2012-14 budget is down even further, to \$5 million.

While the drop in ticketing closely paralleled the drop in the number of deputies working for the sheriff's office, several councilors and Judge Davis expressed the belief that more emphasis should be placed on traffic violations. In response, Heller stated his assigned priorities were people, crime and traffic – in that order. Councilors voted at that workshop to continue the municipal court, which deals with non-criminal offenses, violating city or traffic ordinances.

At last week's workshop, Mayor Carl Jacobson, Nolan and City Councilors Margaret Miller, Daniel Dalegowski, John Gardiner and Jim Polk, created a tentative list of their own law enforcement priorities and discussed ways to create measurable outcomes.

They also discussed current problems with the lack of law enforcement at night leading to a potentially dangerous state of anarchy with "kids doing donuts in the middle of Redwood Highway," which Polk gave as an example.

See City on A-3