

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 1 Section, 14 Pages, Volume 77 No. 33 Published Weekly Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

illinois-valley-news.com

Pot suit ruling issued

By
Judy Hoyle

IVN Contributing Writer

Cave Junction's lawsuit against the State of Oregon was heard by Judge Pat Wolke Sept. 30 in the state's 9th Circuit Court in Grants Pass. At issue was the city's quest to seek "judicial relief" from having to decide whether to follow state or federal law on allowing medical marijuana dispensaries to operate within city limits, since marijuana is prohibited under federal law.

In response to a voter initiative, the state legislature had adopted a law last year allowing state-licensed dispensaries to sell marijuana to card carrying patients. The law was later amended to allow cities to impose a one-year moratorium, beginning May 1 of this year, after some cities and counties had complained about having to allow dispensaries.

Wolke ruled Oct. 16 that local governments can indeed restrict or ban these facilities. The case raised two key legal issues: Does state law prohibit local governments from banning dispensaries, and if so, does the federal prohibition on marijuana override that state law?

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IVFD "Pushing in" new truck



(Photo by IVFD Media Dept)

The Illinois Valley Fire District announced that a new rescue truck will be placed in service at 9 a.m. Thursday, October 23. This vehicle replaces an apparatus that is over 20 years old.

The "pushing in" of apparatus tradition comes from the horse-drawn apparatus days. Upon returning from a call, the horses were unhitched and the apparatus was pushed back into the station by the firefighters and returned to service for the next call.

Following fire service tradition, the public is invited to join the ceremonial "pushing in" of the apparatus into the station by Illinois Valley Fire District Board members, volunteers and career staff.

Candidates face-off in Cave Junction

By
Judy Hoyle

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An Oct. 16 candidates forum, sponsored by the I.V. Chamber of Commerce and *Illinois Valley News*, was well attended by voters. Around 75 interested residents crowded into the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction to hear candidates from three local races, including city council, county sheriff and county commissioner.

In addition, two Libertarian candidates for state offices presented their views. Paul Grad is a candidate for governor and Mark

Seligman is running for state representative.

The first presentation featured two candidates for City of Cave Junction Councilor Position 1. Dan Bosch cited his family's local history dating back to the Waldo gold rush and his desire to see Cave Junction's economy improve. In his youth, the city offered many more job opportunities, which he attributed to a robust timber harvest.

In answer to a question about the homeless problem, Bosch said, "There's a difference between homeless and aimless. I'm for helping as many as we can. Some might take a hand up and some a handout."

Write-in candidate Lindsey B. Gillette

has lived in the area for four years and is a founding member of Healthy U. She helped coordinate the Moon Tree Run the past three years. She was part of the second cohort of the Ford Family Institute Leadership Training Program and now helps train others around the state. She also helps coordinate the I.V. Networking group.

"Collaboration is a good model for this city and our businesses," she said.

Dave Daniel and Sheriff Gil Gilbertson each cited their own training and experience as reasons to vote for them. Daniel mentioned his masters in management from Southern Oregon University and his experience as a Grants Pass

police officer and detective, union president for eight years and Oregon State Patrol Trooper. Gilbertson listed 14 years in administration, including eight years as sheriff and his experience in the Kosovo conflict in Serbia as a member of the U.S. mission.

In response to a question from event moderator Dan Mancuso, about the impending "fiscal cliff" facing the county beginning July 1, 2015, when all O&C federal payments end, Gilbertson said, "We've gone from a \$12 million annual budget to \$1.6 million next year. The last thing I want to do is trade trained professionals with volunteers. I want to protect union jobs."

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Evans nears a century



Five generations gathered as part of the celebration for Evelyn A. Evans' 99th birthday. Evelyn was born October 9, 1915 in Chelsea MA. After retiring as a Registered Nurse from San Jose State University in 1976 she moved to Cave Junction. She is a member of Saint Patrick of the Forest Catholic Church. Pictured: back row Rita Dyer (Evelyn's daughter), Tracy Dyer (Rita's daughter), Gage Sorensen (Jessica's son), Front row Evelyn A. Evans, Jessica Johnson (Tracy's daughter) and Keagan Johnson (Jessica's son).

Lorna Byrne makes a habit of being outstanding

By
Anita R. Savio

IVN Contributing Writer

For the second year running, Lorna Byrne Middle School has been awarded an outstanding, Level 5, grade on its Model Schools report card. The Model Schools program is Oregon's version of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, and only applies to schools with at least 75 percent low income students. Level 5 is the highest possible grade.

Scott Polen, new this year as principal of Lorna Byrne Middle School, says he is thrilled at the school's achievement, but is not content to rest on the laurels of previous administrations.

"We want to keep our foot on the gas peddle [with students who are already doing well] ... and really focus on where we need to improve."

For Polen, that means creating a culture of learning, which he defines as, "a positive place for kids to be. Students feel safe and engaged and teachers are teaching engaging lessons."

Support for students who may be struggling is a part of Polen's plan for student success.

"We have before-and-after-school programs that support academics. We've built extra learning opportunities into our

day, and our core teachers assign those opportunities to kids that are in need of making up an assignment or making up a test. We make sure they're caught up with their classmates."

Once students are caught up, they are released to participate in intramural activities.

Proficiency Based Learning (PBS) is another tool in the school's tool box.

"Think of it as a funnel," says Polen.

Polen goes on to explain that the federal government mandates what is known as Common Core standards in reading and math. Then the state mandates those standards but adds some of its own. Finally, Lorna Byrne applies its own goals on top of the state goals. The result is standards in math, language arts, science and social studies that are specific to the needs of Lorna Byrne students.

"These standards make up our core academic curriculum," says Polen. He adds that test grades account for 80 percent of a student's grade, with homework and other assignments accounting for the remaining 20 percent.

Another tool for excellence is Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS).

"That has to do with school culture," says Polen. "What we're doing to make

learning important to kids. If you're doing a really good job in class I'm going to give you a Viking voucher. You can turn that in for, say, a snack. The next level up is a Fast Pass. A Fast Pass entitles the student to special privileges all week."

Examples of Fast Pass privileges include getting out of school five minutes early, being allowed to wear a hat on Fridays, or moving to the front of the lunch line all week.

"Another aspect of PBIS is you teach the kids expectations," adds Polen. "At the beginning of the year we do this in a home room situation: This is how we want you to act in class, at lunch, and so on."

Involving families is another goal of Principal Polen.

"We are putting together a cross section of parents, classified staff and teachers for once a month meeting of the school Site Counsel. We work on questions about how to involve families This is something interesting that is not characteristically done in other places."

Polen goes on to talk about one way of involving families that has been done in the past and that he plans on continuing: Movie night at the school. For a one dollar admission, family members can come see a movie. And there is popcorn and drinks.

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