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Commissioner Hare in hot water for racy texts

By
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Josephine County Commissioner Simon Hare has found himself in hot water for sending lewd text messages to two young women.

The Dec. 5 incident, which took place at the Cedarwood Saloon in Grants Pass, came to the public's attention after Doug Deakins, the father of one of the girls, spoke up at the county's Dec. 17 weekly business session.

"The more I thought about it and looked into the background on Simon, the more I felt compelled to come forward," said Deakins, a helicopter pilot with Swanson Group Aviation, who was not acquainted with Hare before this incident.

Deakins and his wife, Stefani, were sitting at a table with some friends, including Jennifer Putnam, who was the treasurer of Hare's recent re-election campaign, when the incident occurred.

When Stefani Deakins left the table, Hare picked up her cell phone. Hare claims he thought the phone belonged to Putnam and he sent the messages to the last two contacts in the text message feed as a prank.

The first message: "Dude, you are so hot," went to Deakins' 18-year-old daughter. A second message: "God, I gotta get in your pants," was sent to Deakins' 23-year-old niece.

Both girls were stunned by these suggestive messages and texted back to Deakins' wife, who told the girls that somebody had taken her phone and had sent the messages.

Determining that Hare was responsible, Deakins confronted him at the bar.

"Simon admitted he sent the messages, but became very defensive," said Deakins, adding that it nearly became a fistfight. "Simon said my wife shouldn't leave her phone lying on the table and that she should have had it locked. I told him he shouldn't be picking up stuff that wasn't his and the argument continued... Simon also said that I would 'lose every day of the week' if I did anything about this and then told my wife he knows a lot of attorneys and we don't wanna 'mess' with him."

See Hare on A-10

Bill to expand Caves signed



(Courtesy photo for The Illinois Valley News)

The Oregon Caves Monument received a shot in the arm last week when it was expanded to 4,000 acres. Proponents say this will protect the watershed that feeds the caves and its inhabitants.

Oregon Caves Expansion offers community economic opportunity

By
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The Oregon Caves received a grand Christmas present when President Obama signed a bill Dec. 19 to expand the national monument from 480 acres to over 4,000 acres, creating the Oregon Caves National Preserve. The bill was one of 20 park service improvement initiatives attached to the National Defense Authorization Act.

The monument's expansion facilitates the protection and unified management of the entire watershed that feeds the cave and provides drinking water for visitors. Managing this critical watershed as one unit will better serve the globally significant ecology of both

the cave and surrounding wildlands, preserving these wonders for future generations.

"We also anticipate expanded recreation opportunities for visitors including hiking, hunting and new ranger programs," said Oregon Caves National Monument Superintendent Vicki Snitzler.

The expansion transfers lands surrounding the Oregon Caves from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service. The legislation also designates the River Styx that flows through the cave as the nation's first ever underground National Wild and Scenic River.

"A lot of people have worked for a long time to make this a reality," Snitzler said, acknowledging her gratitude to those who shaped several versions of the expansion plan,

going back to 1909.

"Over 1,000 people sent in letters supporting this expansion and Greg Walter really deserves a special mention for his tireless efforts," said Oregon Caves Chief of Resources Management John Roth. "Greg made trips to Washington D.C. and gave countless presentations over the years."

Roth also acknowledged the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, which was a key player in resolving the grazing issue that had killed previous expansion proposals.

"There had been concerns for years about cattle grazing in the Bigelow Lakes watershed, which now is part of the new park," said Klamath Siskiyou Wild Executive Director Joseph Vaile. "The Applegate Valley rancher involved agreed to retire his allotments and

this will prevent cryptosporidium, a parasitic organism, from entering the park's drinking water supply."

Some local leaders did not support the expansion.

"My biggest fear is around fire protection," said Jim Frick, a realtor with Century 21 Harris and Taylor. "I don't think the Park Service is equipped for that. This just seems like a ploy to control the watershed on the Illinois Valley and Applegate side of the mountain. Plus, I doubt most of the public will ever use all those hiking trails, many of which are on 45 degree slopes. And, I wonder if there is really going to be much of a major economic impact around the valley as a whole."

See Caves on A-10

Cave Junction man faces charges from Dec. 20 incident

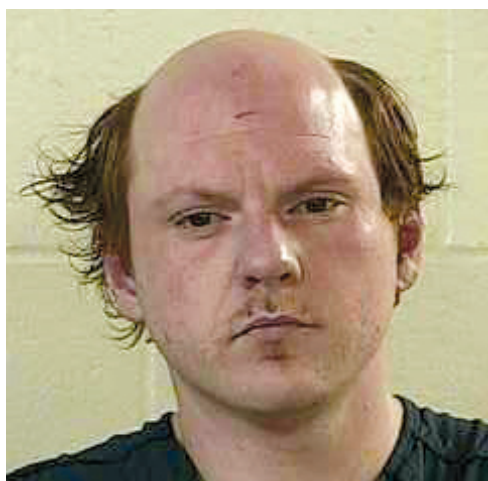
A Cave Junction man was arrested and is currently being detained at the Josephine County Jail on six charges.

According to the Josephine County Sheriff's event log Saturday, Dec. 20, Josephine County Sheriff's Dept. was called to the 200 block of Schumacher Road where Brian Joseph Maxwell 30, was alleged to have

pointed a firearm at his wife and 6-month old daughter.

When officers arrived on scene Maxwell was not at the residence and a search of the area was performed before detaining the suspect. The log also contained a comment from his wife that she believed he was using meth and has shot her in the past. Maxwell was charged with two counts of Menacing,

two counts of pointing a firearm at another and resisting arrest. All five charges are misdemeanors. The sixth charge Unlawful use/Carrying a dangerous weapon is a felony.



Brian Maxwell

Library seeks donations

By
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Since the failure of a library district measure on the November ballot, Josephine County libraries continue to seek donations in order to keep their doors open.

Dubbed the Yellow Envelope Drive, library supporters are being asked to match what they would have paid in taxes if Library District Measure 17-62 had passed. Potential donors are asked to divide the assessed value of their property by 1,000 and multiply that figure by 0.39 to arrive at the amount they would have paid annually.

"The IV branch is within walking distance of all three schools and is heavily used by IV residents of all ages as well as by groups for community centered activities such as our free baby-toddler play group, and occasional evening presentations," said IV Branch Manager Roberta Lee. "Clubs are welcome to use the building when we're not open and only need to make arrangements to use the library. We have many volunteers that are willing to help organize this."

Lee said she wants to make the library building available to the community as an information hub.

"Currently, even when we're not open, patrons can use our WiFi from the comfort of their cars," Lee added.

As of last week, volunteers working to support Josephine Community Libraries (JCLI) have raised \$114,500. With just two weeks remaining in the year, they still need to bring in \$35,500 to stabilize the library budget by Dec. 31.

"I'm constantly impressed with the generosity of our library supporters," Lee said. "They've come to us with their tax receipts, we sit down, figure it out and they write out a check.

The average is about \$60, which works out to \$5 a month. We've had people just come in and drop off checks. It makes me so grateful to be part of this community."

Of the 33,074 people who voted in the recent election, 47 percent voted "yes" and 53 percent voted "no." The number of "yes" voters increased significantly from the last library district vote in 2006, gaining seven percent more votes for library funding and gaining support from 12 additional precincts in Josephine County.

"We are reaching out to the 15,000 people who voted 'yes' this past November to form a library district," said Executive Director Kate Lasky. "Even though the measure failed, if everyone who voted 'yes' made a donation, we'd be able to meet our budget goals for the year."

Josephine County libraries closed in mid-May of 2007. Four months later, committed community members formed Josephine Community Libraries, Inc., a nongovernmental, nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring long-term library services for every county resident.

By December 2009, less than two years later, JCLI had reopened all four shuttered locations, including Grants Pass, Williams and Wolf Creek. They continue to operate, thanks to donations, grants and the contributions of more than 350 volunteers annually. Anyone interested in getting involved to help save this important community resource and valuable industry attraction for the county, can e-mail info@josephinelibrary.org. Potential volunteers are welcome to drop in or call 541-592-4778 during regular business hours.

For more information, or to request a yellow envelope, stop by the Illinois Valley branch at 209 W. Palmer during regular business hours: Wednesdays, from 2 to 6 p.m.; Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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