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Police search for Holland Loop home invaders

According to a press release from the Oregon State Police (OSP) April 19, 2016, at approximately 10:30 p.m., OSP Troopers were dispatched to the report of a home invasion robbery at 8051 Holland Loop Road in Cave Junction. The report indicated one occupant of the residence was pistol whipped and shot by one of the suspects. The initial report indicated that there were four suspects who were dressed in black with masks covering their faces.

While OSP Troopers were on scene of the home invasion, Asante Three Rivers Hospital in Grants Pass reported an unidentified male had been transported and left at Three Rivers Hospital. The report indicated the unidentified male had been shot several times.

Detectives from the Oregon State Police Criminal Division responded to assist. The subsequent investigation has revealed the following information:

The unidentified male who was dropped off at Three Rivers Hospital has been identified as 32 year old, Linzin Rooni Eshalom. Eshalom self-discharged himself from the Asante Three Rivers Hospital with the assistance of his mother and sister April 25, 2016. They are currently believed to be en route to Glendale, Arizona, in a 2016 white, Chrysler, Town and Country minivan, bearing Oregon Plate, 647GJG.

The Oregon State Police has probable cause to arrest Eshalom, who resides in Peoria, Arizona, on the following charges: attempted murder, robbery I, assault II, unlawful use of a weapon and burglary I.

Additional investigation is being conducted in order to identify the three additional suspects.

More information will be released when it is available as this is an ongoing investigation.

'I want some answers!'



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Steve Lyons of Cave Junction expressed his concerns and frustrations Thursday, April 21 at the I.V. Candidate Forum held at the Josephine County Building.

Heck contenders face-off

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer



Keith Heck

The nine candidates competing for Position 2 on the Josephine County board, including incumbent Keith Heck, participated in a candidate forum sponsored by the *Illinois Valley News* and the I.V. Chamber of Commerce at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction April 21. Almost 100 people were in attendance.

During introductions, former commissioner Sandi Cassanelli, recalled from her position in 2011, said, "The primary reason I'm running this time is to alert everyone about what's going on regarding the proposed takeover of the county by the state. It's imperative that we keep our sovereignty here in Josephine County. We don't need commissioners who will abdicate their authority to the state.

"This current board wants to circumvent the will of the electorate who voted down eight levies and taxing districts since 2004," she said. "We'll need to keep an eye on the sneaking developments regarding this issue; it would impact our wallets in a very big way if they succeed. There is no current fiscal crisis; it's simply a fictitious creation of the commissioners' own making. ...Crime statistics do not support their premise and neither do the actions of the current board. They steadfastly refuse to give money to the sheriff from growth reserves, unexpected SRS Title I revenues, and general fund money originally allocated for unnecessary water testing."

Candidate Harriet Harris, a retired Navy captain, disagreed, "I believe there is a funding problem in the county, but I think we have

resources that can address that. ...I was in the military for 24 years and was successful because I realized how to get the mission done. And then I found good people who could do the job. Identifying with the people who have passion and knowledge in the areas that I don't - and utilizing those folks."

Candidate Dan DeYoung said a key reason he is running is concern about the lack of jobs in the region. He said his kids moved away because they could not find work here. "That's a concern to me." He also expressed concern about the lack of local timber harvest. "It hasn't gotten much better....I'm all in favor of suing the United States government for their breach of the O&C Act."

SEE HECK ON A-10

8 candidates vie for Walker's seat

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

Around 40 I.V. residents attended a County Commissioner Forum for Position 3 candidates April 22 at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction. The event was sponsored by the *Illinois Valley News* and the I.V. Chamber of Commerce.

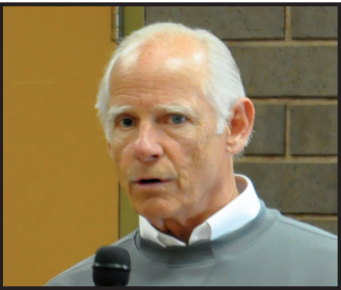
The race was thrown open by current Commissioner Cheryl Walker's surprise withdrawal from her bid for re-election March 9, just before the filing deadline. Of the eight vying for her seat, only David Martin was absent from Friday's candidate forum.

When all candidates were asked by event organizer, moderator and *Illinois Valley News* publisher Dan Mancuso whether they supported banning cannabis farms on property zoned for RR5 (5 acre rural residential use), everyone stated "no."

They all oppose asking for a state bailout for the county, often referred to as the "\$2 bill" for the cost per thousand of assessed value levy for property owners. The candidates were congenial, but disagreed on several other points during over two hours of debate.

Bill Hunker compared the county to an \$80 million company in distress. "You go through the budget line by line to find savings. We can

allocate road funds, economic development dollars and county logging revenue to pay the most important bills,"



Bill Hunker

he said. "Douglas County has one quarter the timber lands as Josephine, but they sustainably produce much more timber than we do through reforestation." He pledged no new taxes during

his term, asserting he would find ways to live within the available budget.

Hunker said according to Oregon State Police statistics, the county averages around 8,000 crimes per year, down from 10,000 15 or 16 years ago. "In 2002, we had seven murders in the county. We don't have nearly the amount of violent crime that we used to. It's more property crimes now."

He said the county needs a business advocate. "White City offers business development support. We need to do that here. Our current commissioners have all been in office for three years or more. They still have not offered an economic development plan."

He later said, "Everything starts with the county planning department. They should be inviting and helpful, rather than hand builders one road block after another."

Lily Morgan touted her experience as a Grants Pass City Councilor, two years as president, and her years working in local law enforcement in several different positions as evidence of her ability to lead.

She said that the source of federal and state funds dictates where and how those dollars are to be spent.

"Cuts can't necessarily be moved to public safety, but I would prioritize discretionary funds for public

safety," she said.

She suggested finding ways to tax tourism industries. She also stated the most important issues facing the county are public safety and a lack of an economic development strategy. She would also like to see a return to community policing.

In answer to a question, Morgan stated she's against genetically modified organisms. She also defended current zoning regulations for cannabis. "There's a big difference between the city and the county," she said. "We don't want to see daycare next to a grow."

SEE WALKER ON A-9



Every 15 minutes

IVHS senior Allison Primeau chose impaired driving awareness as her senior project. Primeau along with fellow seniors re-enacted a collision scene that included the jaws of life and a ride to jail for the driver.

(Photo courtesy of Destiny Alexander for *The Illinois Valley News*)