

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, June 15, 2016, 1 Section, Volume 79 No. 13

Published Weekly Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

City kicks the can on cannabis tax

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IVN Contributing Writer

At its monthly meeting, June 13, the Cave Junction City Council opted to postpone the first reading of a proposed cannabis sales tax and a local fuel tax until receiving word from city legal counsel regarding draft ballot language. The council likewise expressed the desire to hear from the public, particularly business owners, about the proposed taxes.

The ideas for both levies arose from conversations within the city about how to raise revenue for law enforcement. Councilor Daniel Dalegowski presented both proposals to the council at its May 9 meeting and the council decided to research them further before potentially referring them to the voters of Cave Junction.

The proposed fuel tax, which is similar to taxes levied by many municipalities across Oregon, would support the street maintenance fund, thereby freeing up money from the General Fund for law enforcement. Mayor Carl Jacobson has had a "small discussion" with one local gas station owner as to possible tax rates, but is seeking more input from owners of local gas stations.

The council is also soliciting public comment about the proposed 3 percent tax on recreational cannabis sales. Though the city currently has a moratorium on recreational marijuana businesses pending a declaratory judgment from the state, the council is thinking preemptively and wants to be ready to tax these sales should they be required to permit them.

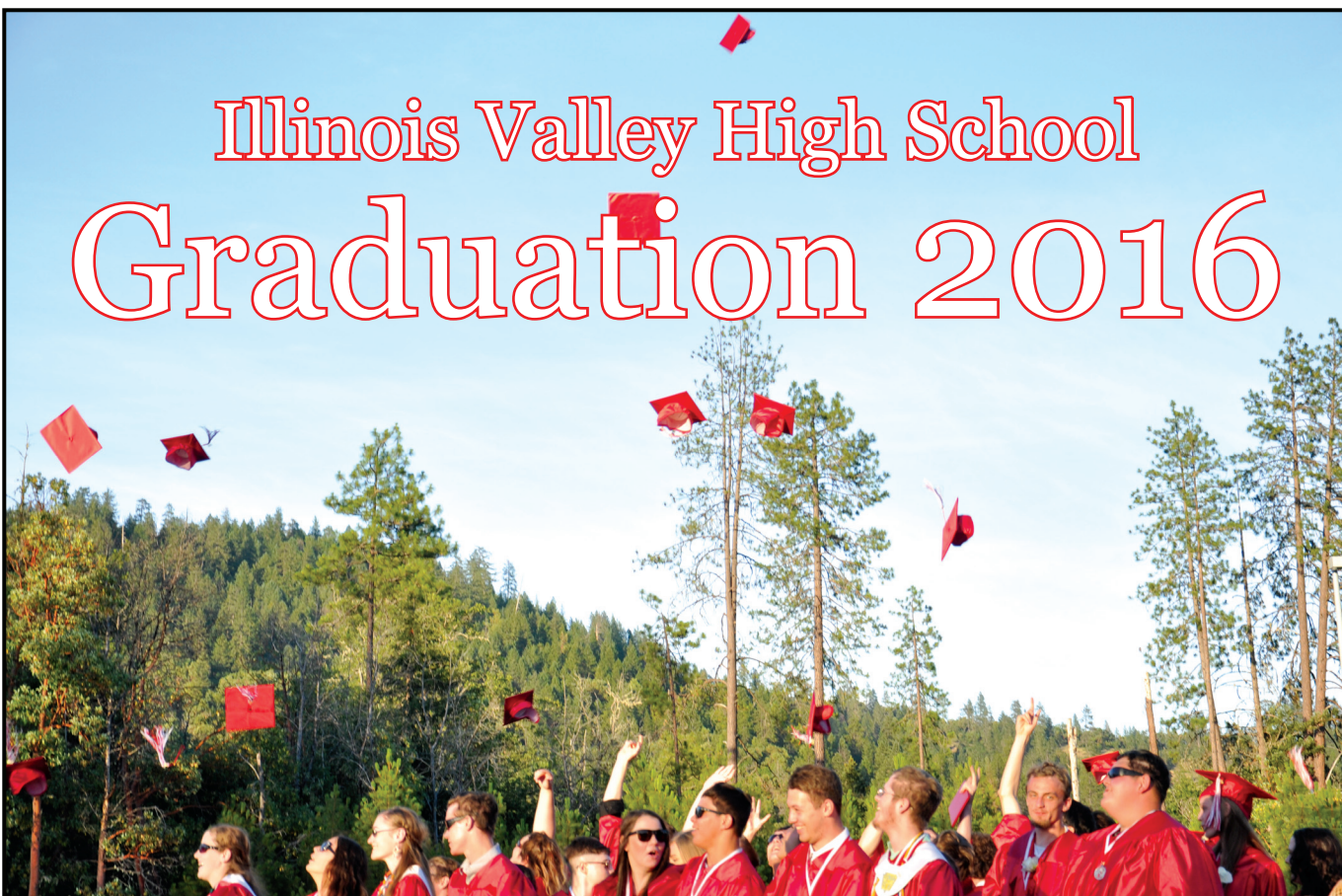
If the council decides to move forward, these ordinances would be referred to the voters of Cave Junction in the November 2016 General Election. Pat Kelly, the city's attorney, will potentially get his feedback to the city this week. If so, the council may discuss the matter further at its next meeting, Monday, June 20, at 7 p.m. Public comments are welcomed at city council meetings and written comments will be accepted at City Hall.

The council also approved a park use request, and a request to have fires, from the I.V. by Candlelight committee, who will be holding an event in Jubilee Park July 21. The group plans to hold a candlelight walk and campfire discussion about public safety in our community after the concert in the park. There will be refreshments provided with all proceeds of the Chamber of Commerce's Concert in the Park 50/50 raffle going to benefit CJ Patrols.

As a last minute addition to the agenda, Councilor Dalegowski asked the council to consider entering into a lease discussion with KXCJ-LP, a low-power, community radio station that is looking to be on the air by the end of the year. KXCJ is interested in negotiating with the city to lease a small portion of city property on which to place their antennae. Chief Dennis Hoke, of the Illinois Valley Fire District spoke in favor of the radio station and urged the council to enter in to negotiations citing the need to get real-time information out to the community in the event of an emergency. The council agreed to look further into the matter.

Additionally, it was announced that the Mayor and two council members, Margaret Miller and John Gardiner, will be up for re-election this November. All positions are unpaid, with the mayor's term being two years while councilors are elected for four-year terms. To run for mayor or city council, one must be a registered voter who has lived within Cave Junction city limits for at least six months. Interested parties should contact City Hall between July 19 and Aug. 26 for more information.

The Cave Junction City Council meets the second Monday of every month, with additional meetings should the need arise. There will be a second meeting this month, Monday, June 20, 7 p.m. at 222 Lister Street in Cave Junction. The public is welcome.



The Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) class of 2016 received their diplomas Tuesday, June 7 at the IVHS football field. Every seat in the audience was filled, with some people standing on the sides.



(Photos by Dan Klapheke, Illinois Valley News)

Intern joins Illinois Valley News team

Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley News staff is thrilled to welcome Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) student Dan Klapheke, who began an eight-week internship with the paper last week.

"I'm looking forward to doing a little bit of everything, including reporting, editing, layout, taking photos and participating in every aspect of a small papers' operation," said Klapheke, who is pursuing a double major in journalism and broadcast & electronic media. "I'm also looking forward to meeting a lot of good people and getting a crash course on what it's like to live in Southern Oregon."

Klapheke, 21, is already an award-winning journalist. While completing an internship at the Falmouth Outlook, a weekly newspaper in Falmouth, Kentucky, he worked on a heroin story that won a mark of excellence award from the Society of Professional Journalists, placing him in the top 12 nationally for in-depth reporting stories produced by college writers in 2015. The Kentucky Press Association also awarded Klapheke with an honorable mention for this work, as well as an award for top college columnist.

The International Society of Weekly News Editors (ISWNE) launched its first

internship program this year - and Illinois Valley News publisher Dan Mancuso, an ISWNE member, promptly submitted an essay outlining the reasons why his paper would be a good fit for an intern.

"We are certainly pleased that we were able to match Dan Klapheke with the Illinois Valley News," said ISWNE Executive Director Chad Stebbins. "Of all the university students who applied for one of our four internships this year, Dan was the most highly rated by the selection committee. We are certain that it's going to be a mutually beneficial experience for both Dan and the newspaper."

"Interning with the Illinois Valley News will give Dan some real-world experience that will be invaluable in his future career," Stebbins added. "He will also be able to share his experiences with fellow students at Eastern Kentucky University next fall, and perhaps inspire them to consider community journalism as a possible career. The ISWNE Foundation's ultimate goal is to promote the weekly newspaper industry while helping college and university students at the same time."

Starting his senior year in fall, Klapheke is involved with EKU's honors program. He also founded a fraternity at EKU, Alpha Tau Omega, which accomplishes service-related activities. "We do a lot of different social work," he said. "Last year we raised

\$5,000 for a local domestic violence shelter. We supported them for a year as their No. 1 sponsor and donator."

Klapheke hails from Cynthiana, Kentucky, a rural area about 45 minutes north of Lexington. He has one brother, Jesse, who will join him at EKU in fall. In high school, Klapheke was class president and participated in "a lot of sports" including soccer, football, golf and track. Academically, he displayed a "keen eye" for English.

"I always wanted to write and figured journalism was a good way to make a career of it," Klapheke said. "I'm pretty open to all areas within the field. I haven't settled on any particular beat yet." After graduation, Klapheke says he'd like to land a job with a larger news outlet and work his way up, or possibly find a position in video or television.

Looking forward to experiencing Oregon's natural areas, Klapheke said, "I'm a big outdoors guy. I like to hike and I like the water. When I'm not at the office or working an assignment, I'll be spending time with the Mancusos and seeing the area."

The three-day cross-country trip on a Greyhound bus to Oregon marks the farthest distance from home Klapheke has ever been. "I got to see some beautiful scenery, especially driving through Wyoming and Utah," he said. "I saw a lot of characters and met some strange

people and some nice people. A lot of good people, they were all out to change something in their lives."

"I like to write about people, so if you think you have a good story, stop in at the I.V. News," Klapheke said. "I'll be the guy in the Y'ALL hat."



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Dan Klapheke at the summit of Mt. Elijah, Sunday, June 12.