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CJ Patrol waits on city attorney

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Cave Junction Patrol (CJ Patrol), which has been protecting neighborhoods and businesses for the past year, has suspended operations until compliance - or lack thereof - with the city’s current ordinances is discerned.

“We’re working with the city,” said patrol organizer Jimmy Evans. “Right now, we’re waiting on the city’s attorney to determine if we are a ‘neighborhood watch’ as defined by the city’s ordinance. There is some confusion, because we patrol the entire city, including businesses. If we’re considered merely a neighborhood watch, then we’re exempt from the codes, which could be more restrictive to other kinds of watches and patrols.”

CJ Patrol is currently a limited liability corporation (LLC). Evans said it was “too much administration” to create a nonprofit at this time, and said the LLC designation was the easiest way for the group to organize.

According to John Miles, who sits on the Illinois Valley Safety Taskforce (IVST), Cave Junction currently has some of the strictest codes regarding requirements for security guards and security companies in the nation.

“We had been operating without understanding the codes,” Evans said. “Neither the patrol volunteers, the business owners, or the city officials really understood the city’s existing codes, and if there was some sort of incident involving liability that could have caused trouble, so the pause in operations is to get this all straightened out.”

He added, “This is not a drama problem, no one wants to stop the patrol, we just have to work this out to make sure everyone is covered, and so far, everyone’s been really helpful. We’re all trying to find the right solutions.”

“I give them credit [CJ Patrol] for putting in all the time that they have thus far, neighborhood watches are a great thing for our community,” said city recorder Ryan Nolan. “The ordinance does not apply to neighborhood watch groups, however if the group does want to start accepting funds to develop their service, then city ordinances may potentially apply once money is exchanged.”

Nolan explained that the idea behind the current ordinance was to provide the city council with “some standards” for companies potentially offering “security patrol” services, whether for free or for a fee.

The ordinance states in 5.16.010 Section C, “‘Security patrol’ shall not be construed to mean any person watching his neighbor’s property nor any group of residents formed to watch their own neighborhood.” However, again, the ordinance does have requirements for organizations and corporations seeking to offer “security patrol” services.

Nolan added that no complaints have come to the council and no action has been taken by the city to close down CJ Patrol. He added that the ordinance has “some very sensible laws regarding ‘security patrol’ services,” and said that this section of the code does not apply to groups of residents formed to watch their own neighborhoods.

SEE PATROL ON A-10



(Courtesy photo for the Illinois Valley News)

Illinois Valley Fire District firefighters contain a structure fire at 425 E. River Street in the early hours of Sept. 24. The American Red Cross Cascades Region also responded to meet housing and clothing needs to the home owner. No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Dalegowski looks to move up

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It was as a concerned citizen that Daniel Dalegowski first became interested in the workings of the Cave Junction City Council. Dalegowski, who was born and raised in Josephine County and attended IVHS, had returned to Cave Junction after a stint teaching English in South Korea just in time to see the aftermath of the real estate bubble that burst in the late 2000s. The town that he had grown up in had been on the verge of developing, and he didn’t like what he saw. “To me, it was really shocking. The bare earth was shocking. At the time, I was really opposed to the development,” he said. “I opposed the aesthetic of the subdivisions.” And so he started attending city council meetings, to find out what was going on in the city and to make his voice heard.

As he attended council meetings, he thought, “I could do this better.” In 2010, Dalegowski ran for City Council Position 3, a position he has held since then. He is now running for mayor because, as he said, “There are people who I have a lot of respect for who’ve said they think I’d be good at it, so I thought I’d give it a try.” Dalegowski is currently the council president, a position that requires him to preside over the council when the mayor is unavailable, so he has experience wielding the mayor’s gavel.

When asked about his achievements as a city councilor, Dalegowksi consistently referred to group projects that he was proud to have been a part of. He was a member of the group that built a new play structure at Jubilee Park and a part of the coalition that helped save Forks Park from being closed. “I was one person among many who helped make it happen,” he said of both projects. Though he would like to take credit

for more of the accomplishments that happened during his time on the council, Dalegowski said, “The council is often in the roll of granting approval or denial. Generally, really talented staff or community groups are doing the heavy lifting, not the council.”

This collaborative approach is at the heart of Dalegowski’s plans as mayor. In order to solve the problems afflicting Cave Junction, said Dalegowski, “We need more services, but it’s not necessarily the city’s role to provide them.” Among the services that he envisions are drug counseling, mentoring programs, and different avenues to break the cycles of addiction that keep people in marginalized positions. “These are huge problems that require a lot of resources,” he said. “As mayor, the best I could do is to coordinate the proper people.”

SEE DAN ON A-10

Moore has a plan to improve city

Caroline Griffith
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Don Moore has big plans for what he’ll do if elected as mayor of Cave Junction. He wants to bring law enforcement back under city control, control the “indigent” population and provide a permanent funding stream for the local library. His plans for achieving these goals will all be revealed at the Oct. 11 candidate forum hosted by the *Illinois Valley News*.

Moore’s campaign signs have been up around town for weeks, and the “Proven Experience” touted on those signs refers to his last term as mayor of Cave Junction, from 2008-2010. He also served on the Cave Junction City Council from 2007-2008. As mayor, Moore worked to bring backflow and water testing equipment to the city, saving money that had previously been used to hire outside contractors to provide this service. “Save a little money here, save a little money there. It all adds up,” said Moore. As mayor

he also helped to coordinate the formation of the Kerby Water District. According to Moore, the formation of the Water District not only created a continued revenue stream for the City of Cave Junction, which sells the water to the district, it also helped to raise property values in Kerby. The increase in property values in Kerby, said Moore, led to an increase in property values in Cave Junction, too.

One of the achievements that Moore is most proud of from his tenure as mayor was the hiring of a second, part-time law enforcement officer. The money to hire this deputy, according to Moore, came out of the savings gleaned from the previously mentioned acquisition of backflow and water testing equipment. “We were so tough on crime that people left for other parts of Josephine County,” Moore reminisced.

Moore, who has lived in Cave Junction for 16 years, did not run for re-election as mayor because he opted instead to run for County Commissioner, a race he did not win. He has decided to throw his hat back into the ring this time around because, as he

said, “I left six years ago, and nothing has been done since. In fact, we’ve gone backwards.”

One of the areas in which we have gone backward, according to Moore, is public safety. “Law enforcement is a paramount responsibility,” he said. “The city must provide security to citizens.” Moore’s plan for how to do this, along with his other plans, will be revealed Oct. 11.

Moore is also critical of the city’s handling of the regulation of cannabis related businesses. He has seen the economic benefit that the cannabis industry has already brought to the community and said, “Instead of our city government embracing this asset, we are involved in lawsuits against it.” As mayor, Moore vowed “I’m going to get rid of those lawsuits. If we are paying \$50,000, we could have paid for another deputy.”

In regard to a recent, failed, proposal to tax cannabis sales, Moore said, “Cannabis is already here. We are missing out on 3 percent of sales. What could that pay for? Why not let cannabis pay some of our bills?”

Moore is an advocate of a businesslike

approach to city government. “We need to use a business plan approach,” he said, “not a touchy-feely approach.”

“I don’t care if I am a one-term mayor,” he added. “If I get this fixed, that’s good enough for me.”



Don Moore