

Year in Review: September

•Sept. 3 – 5 was the 44th annual I.V. Lions’ Labor Day Festival themed “On the Edge of the Wild.” Tuff Truck race’s perennial winner John Pope earned first prize. And then Monday morning, the annual parade was presided over by Grand Marshall Dennis Strayer and then in the afternoon the winner of the yearlong Harley Davidson raffle was announced as former I.V. Lions club member Gene Benschoter

•Anita Savio wrote county budget part two with details about the General Fund. She explained where the money in the General Fund comes from including property taxes, generated revenues and interfund transfers. Anita made it clear with graphs and figures that there is no pot of “extra” money being withheld from public scrutiny.

•The I.V. Airport received a series of grants to provide \$2.3 million in upgrades over the next year due to the efforts of Josephine County Airports Manager Larry Graves. The projects included emergency power generators, runway lighting and electrical

upgrades, as well as a complete redesign for the parking ramps.

•Healing Hearts and Hooves had openings for new students. This program is an Illinois Valley-based therapeutic horse-back riding program.

•The Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) welcomed Tanner Smith as the new principal. Smith was thrilled about his new job. He came to IVHS in 2015 as the assistant principal, and was promoted to principal in July.

•The I.V. Safe House Alliance was offering a free “Engaging Parents” class for parents to start building the skills necessary to be successful in conversations about sex and sexuality with their children.

•Brian Wilson winemaker for Foris and Cookoo’s Nest Cellars was awarded a Best of Show Award at the Oregon Wine Competition.

•Harvest time was around the corner and Roy Leon, manger of Good Earth Organics gave his observations about the increase of new people moving here to grow

cannabis and addressed Valley concerns about increased water usage and dangerous chemicals being used to grow cannabis.

•Monday, Sept. 12, the Cave Junction City Council began a discussion on alternatives to using certain herbicides in the city’s roadside vegetation maintenance strategy. The council also spent considerable time discussing citizen complaints regarding a property on Old Stage Road, which actually lies outside of city jurisdiction.

•On Tuesday, Sept. 13 through Sept. 15, the Josephine County Sheriff’s Office in cooperation with the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, Oregon State Police, Josephine County Parole and Probation and the U.S. Marshal’s Service conducted Operation Sex Offender Sweep and arrested 34.

•Masonic Kerby Belt Lodge No. 18 hosted a meeting with Oregon Grand Master Arthur L. Borland who touted his theme “Traditions: Past, Present and Future” and his goal for the year to increase literacy in the South

District.

•The Cave Junction office staff of the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) organized and sponsored the third annual Backpack Project just before the beginning of the school year.

The DHS team distributed 176 backpacks and school supplies to Illinois Valley students Aug. 22 and 31 and then more were delivered to the three public schools before the Labor Day weekend.



(File photo, Illinois Valley News)

Tuff Truck winner John Pope gets air Sept. 4, at Jubilee Park.

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from Caves Chevron

Year in Review: October

•Oct. 10 a city council meeting ended in an uproar when the council nearly voted to back out of the marijuana lawsuit that the city has been involved in for over two years. The meeting was about to come to a close when Councilor Dan Bosch made a motion to take the city of Cave Junction’s name off the declaratory judgment that is seeking an answer as to whether the city should follow state law, and issue business licenses to marijuana businesses, or if they should follow federal law, which still considers marijuana illegal.

•The Cave Junction City Council voted Oct. 24 to withdraw from the marijuana lawsuit.

•Candidates for Josephine County Commissioner faced the voters Oct. 13 at a town-hall style forum hosted by *Illinois Valley News*. Candidates for positions 2, incumbent Keith Heck and challenger Dan DeYoung faced off and then candidates for position 3, Lily Morgan and Bill Hunker addressed the voters. Public safety dominated the conversation, but candidates also spoke about marijuana and economic development.

•There was an armed robbery at PAPA’s dispensary Sept. 10. William Smith, 43, the primary suspect in the case, was investigated at his residence and following an interview with police was taken into custody. He was facing charges for robbery I, theft II, plus menacing and unlawful possession of a firearm.

•The Illinois Valley Cougars’ football team enjoyed a decisive 46-8 victory over the Rogue River Chieftains Friday evening, Oct. 7 in Rogue River.

•A crime stats story revealed there was a decline in sheriff’s office arrests, mirrored by a substantial increase in reported offenses, which appears related

to the drop in the sheriff’s budget around 2012. “Patrol was cut down to the bare-bones in 2012,” said Sheriff Dave Daniel. A sheriff’s office graph shows that, in 2012, arrests dropped from 328 down to a low of 74, then rebounding slightly to 119 in 2015.

•Vincent Deschamps’ Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) grow-site was burglarized by three men who stole an estimated 30-40 pounds of wet cannabis.

•The Illinois Valley grape harvest of 2016 from Foris, Deer Creek and Bridgeview was reported a success.

•The entire student body of I.V. High School volunteered a few hours for the community Oct. 7 for the Dan Fiske Memorial Great Day of Service. The students pulled weeds, picked up litter painted fences and more at various places throughout the Valley.

•A public open house was held at the Josephine County Building in Cave Junction Oct. 20 to gather input from the community about new bus stops in the Illinois Valley. Community Development Director, Julie Schmelzer and Transit Program Supervisor Scott Chancey, presented maps of the current bus stops in the city of Cave Junction and distributed surveys to attendees as to which locations were preferred for five new bus shelters to be installed.

•The annual Acorn Festival sponsored by the Cultural and Ecological Enhancement Network (CEEN) and the fifth annual Harvest Moon Hoe sponsored by Illinios River Valley Arts Council (once again featured professional dance caller John Luna) both took place at the Selma Center.

•The sheriff’s budget was under review with the upcoming levy under consideration. It was reported that the Josephine County Sheriff’s Department

budget was \$7.9 million. According to Sheriff Daniel, “There’s not much of a patrol going on, we’re just running from call to call to call.” It was reported by Finance Director Arthur O’Hare that the loss of the Safe Rural Schools monies would result in a 50 percent cut in the sheriff’s department budget.

•Josephine County dropped participation in the Association of O&C Counties lawsuit, while joining as plaintiff in two others. All three of the lawsuits alleged that BLM’s 2016 Resource Management Plan does not provide adequate timber harvests, as per the original O&C mandate.

•The property, owned by Rock’N Soil which sells gardening and landscaping supplies was the subject of complaints. Neighbors of the property, which does not lie within city limits, have attended multiple city council meetings to complain about noise, dust, offensive smells and concerns about increased truck traffic on Old Stage Road. The council, though sympathetic to the neighbors, directed them to the county, which actually has jurisdiction over the property.



(File photo, Illinois Valley News)

Year in Review: November

•The Cave Junction city election was over and the victors will move on to occupy their new positions working for the city in January. The winners were Daniel Dalegowski for mayor, Lindsey Gillette for City Council Position 2, and Mark Dillinger for City Council Position 4.

•The Josephine County board gets two new commissioners. Lily Morgan and Dan DeYoung will join current Commissioner Simon Hare, who is serving out his second term.

•Rough and Ready Lumber Company running in the Illinois Valley for 93 years, closed its doors for the third and final time. Management was set to run an auction over the coming days to liquidate the remainder of their on-site assets.

•The Josephine County Sheriff’s Office conducted a saturation patrol for four hours called “Operation Boo.” Fifty-one traffic stops were initiated resulting in multiple arrests.

•Annette McGee Rasch wrote a story about how “Trimigrants” (transients hoping to get money from the cannabis harvest time) were congregating outside of Shop Smart and general manager Jessica Clark expressed concerns about panhandling

and customer safety.

•Forty years of the Dome School in Takilma was celebrated and a major expansion project was underway to add 2,000 square feet of space to the school.

•City Council met to discuss the city’s bulk water sales, marijuana business policy and amending city code to remove restrictions on CJ Patrol (a Cave Junction business and neighborhood watch group). Votes approved the city’s notary policy and fee schedule and a letter to the Bureau of Land Management in support of the Rough and Ready and Baldface Creeks Mineral Withdrawal Area.

•A new slogan “Illinois Valley Naturally!” was created by the Illinois Valley 20/20 Community Vision and Strategic Plan to uplift the perception about the Valley and to remind the residents what a great place they live in.

•Illinois Valley High School hosted a career workshop during parent conferences Nov. 17.

•The Doug Hoskins Resource Center (DHRC) was burglarized, emptying the shelves and forcing volunteers to turn families away empty-handed. An estimated \$1,000 worth of food was stolen after thieves broke in and made off with

the food using grocery carts. The community came together and donated food and cash allowing DHRC to restock their shelves and plan for Thanksgiving dinner at Jubilee Park.

•The sixth annual Artisans’ Holiday Faire was planned at a new venue: the fellowship hall of the Community Bible.

•Rogue Community College and Illinois Valley Chorus prepared for “Love is All You Need -- a Tribute to the Beatles,” to be held at Immanuel United Methodist Church.

•Jack L. Sauer’s memorial service was held at I.V. High School cafeteria Nov. 19 and hundreds came to pay their final respects. Sauer was the third generation at Sauer’s Flat, a Kerby homestead. His son Nick gave a moving eulogy of this “true pioneer son of the valley” who made his living at the hard, uncertain work of logging and ranching, with his wife, Jo at his side.

•The Valley Girls quilting group met Nov. 28 to award grants to three I.V. nonprofits: I.V. Boys and Girls Club, Healing Hearts and Hooves and the Dome School. The total amount of the funds granted came to \$3,500.

•The Art of Fiddling program with Kelly



Kelly Thibodeaux

Thibodeaux funded by an anonymous donor came to Evergreen Elementary School from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2.

•The marijuana lawsuit was over so the mayor and city council started working toward modifying the city code to the point where it would enable dispensaries to become licensed as soon as possible. The city council arranged a date in which everyone could sit down to talk about the issue. Mayor elect Dalegowski gave an estimated date of completion of sometime in January.

•Dick Matti, I.V. High School (IVHS) girls’ soccer coach retired. Matti was the coach at IVHS for eight years and in total had been coaching for 32 years.