

CITY . . .

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The council decided that the responsible action is to clean up the asbestos before selling the property, but they would be willing to sell the property with the contractual stipulation that the buyer must undertake the asbestos abatement within a certain amount of time. City legal counsel will be asked to draft a sales agreement to this effect so that the city may move forward with the sale of said property.

Finally, at the request of O'Brien resident Gordon Lyford, the council agreed to send a letter to the State Department of Environmental Quality in support of designating the North Fork of the Smith River as an Outstanding Resource Water. This is a designation defined under the 1972 Clean Water Act that would provide protection for the pristine headwaters of the Smith River, preserving those waters for fish production, drinking water, irrigation, botanical resources and recreation. If approved by the DEQ, this would be the first Outstanding Resource Water designation in the state of Oregon. The council unanimously agreed to send a letter of support.

The Cave Junction City Council meets the second Monday of every month, with more meetings added as needed. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at 222 W. Lister Street. The public is welcome.

SFI to host Friday program on devastating bat disease

Oregon Caves National Monument's Chief of Resource Management, John Roth, will provide updates on the Caves bat colony and its vulnerability to a disease that has killed millions of little brown bats east of the Rockies. Roth will present "Oregon Caves Bat Colonies and the Threat of White-Nose Fungus" at Siskiyou Field Institute (SFI) in Selma this Friday, Feb. 24, at 6:30 p.m. The program is part of SFI's Friday Free Learning series.

A publication from Lava Beds National Monument, another Western National Park famous for its maternal bat colony, states, "White-nose syndrome (WNS) has caused the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history." The deadly disease's outward sign is a powdery white fungus that coats bat noses, ears and wing membranes. Until early 2016, natural resource managers thought that West Coast bat colonies were safely distant from WNS infection sites in the eastern U.S. and Canada. All that changed last winter when an infected little brown bat was found in western Washington State, followed by two more discovered later in the year. The findings indicate that WNS has jumped over 1,300 miles. Officials believe spores from the fungal disease probably traveled west on cavers' equipment. It's also thought that a human vector carrying WNS on equipment caused the original introduction of WNS in North America.

Safety protocols are being intensified to protect National Park caves in which maternal bats hibernate. WNS causes sudden awakenings and activity in hibernating bats. Using up vital fat reserves, the winter-active bats starve to death. Eleven bat species are known to be susceptible to white-nose fungus, including the once common little brown bat and the big brown bat. The federally listed Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat are also at risk of extinction from WNS.

It is important to report unusual bat deaths. If you observe unusual bat behavior or unexplained bat deaths in Oregon, call the Wildlife Health Hotline at 1-866-968-2600. In other states, contact your state wildlife agency.

White-nose fungus exists in bat populations in Europe and China but has not caused such severe population declines. Great Smoky Mountains National Park has a video documenting WNS in its bat colony available to watch through the National Park Service website by visiting www.nps.gov/grsm/learn/photosmultimedia/wns-bat-video.htm.

More information on the SFI program is available at www.thesfi.org or by calling 541-597-8530. SFI's Deer Creek Center is at 1241 Illinois River Rd. in Selma

PARTY . . .

Continued from A-1

Eby describes the Resist Committee as a work in progress, but says it will focus on three things: organized demonstrations, participation in protests and "taking a stand for basic human rights."

"I am strongly motivated that

the whole Trump administration is vulnerable on the issue of personal rights," he said. "When he lies to the American people about facts ... when Republicans spin the truth, manipulate the truth, I think they are all accountable ... I think that is a case of gross misconduct and that we should hold our leaders to a high level of ethics and functioning. When they fail to do that, we should ask them to get out of office and go

back home."

The *Illinois Valley News* attempted to contact the Josephine County Republican Party for comment. We attempted both by email and telephone. However our efforts were without success.

Those interested in becoming a Josephine County Democratic PCP, or otherwise involved, can contact the party at josephinedemocrats.org. They are also welcome to attend the

next Democrats meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship building located at 129 NW 'E' St. in Grants Pass. There will be a speaker from a local Indivisible (activist) group.

Those interested in becoming a Republican PCP can contact the party at jocogop.org.

MILES . . .

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She proudly added that her Dad was present Monday to watch her sworn in as a councilor.

Miles hopes to help improve the city while still keeping Cave Junction's uniqueness and charm.

"We need to get everybody talking together. People here are resourceful and work together well. With so many people having given their input, I'd love to use the 20/20 Visioning Plan as a guide."

She also acknowledged that Valley residents were not as well represented as city residents.

"According to the Strategic Plan, public safety is the No. 1 issue in the Valley," and

continued with, "We can't do everything for everybody, but we want the rest of the Valley to know we're listening to their concerns too."

"It comes down to the basics," she said. "We all care about the same things, we all bleed red, and we all want the best for our families. If we take care of each other and find the common issues we have and truly listen, we can find solutions."



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