

Illinois Valley News

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County shocks Valley with building sale

By Dan Mancuso
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In somewhat of a startling announcement, a decision to sell the “County Building” in Cave Junction was unveiled in a press release by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners Friday, May 5.

“The building has served Cave Junction and the Illinois Valley for nearly 50 years,” according to the press release, and added, “Due to significant declines in O&C Timber revenue and reductions in staffing/programs, the use of the 6,000-square-foot building has been reduced to mainly rented office space and occasional community gatherings.”

Commissioner Simon Hare said that the decision came as the county was reducing its inventory of property and tax-exempt buildings. “A series of hard decisions had to be made,” said Hare.

Mike Watson, Josephine County property manager, said that in October 2016 an appraisal stated that the value then was \$388,000.

What happens next is anyone’s guess. While the community has been vocal about the importance of the building, Hare thinks that a private sale will have a positive effect on the city. “We are hoping we can stimulate the economy in Cave Junction, return the property to the tax rolls and reduce the county’s property portfolio and liability,” he said. “Ideally we’d get an office complex, retail store, or child care center in the building. We would like to not only get it back on the tax rolls, but have it meet a community need. Preferably there’d be a lot of foot traffic to give business to the other establishments in Cave Junction.”

The County building was described as the “landmark building, located at 102 North Redwood Highway and conveniently located in Downtown Cave Junction, was built in 1968 and (comprises) 6,277 square feet in area. It currently is divided into 13 private offices rented to various agencies and organizations, and has a large open multipurpose room used as a meeting/dining hall.

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What a circus!



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Skeeter the Clown (right) entertains Alyce Kendall (left) and Hazel Griffith while promoting the upcoming Culpepper & Merriweather Circus at Shop Smart Thursday May 3. The circus sponsored by the Illinois Valley Family Coalition will be held Monday, May 15 in the lot next to the Junction Inn located at 406 S. Redwood Hwy. with scheduled performances at 5 and 7:30 p.m.

The Animal Shelter makes plea for continuation of levy

Anita R. Savio
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“Euthanasia rate is now 18 percent, down from 60 percent before the levy!” exclaimed Nancy Lindquist current chairman of the Animal Shelter Advisory Committee when asked what the last animal shelter levy accomplished.

Lindquist explained numerous ways the animal shelter levy has helped animals in Josephine County:

“We built new cat facility that has a lot more space for more cats,” she further explained that the

improved space made the “whole thing a lot more adoptable friendly.”

“For dogs we built big runs outside that allow dogs to go outside and they’ve got shade, water, can run around. Also there is a trail for volunteers or potential adopters to walk the dog.

“Also as a result of the levy, we can now spay or neuter animals before they are adopted out. We are also micro chipping them. And they are given age appropriate shots, including rabies for both dogs and cats.

“We also hired another two more experienced and skilled people to staff the shelter. Our new shelter

coordinator has created relationships with outside animal organizations, which provide additional adoption opportunities.”

When Lindquist was asked about the facility, she said, “They got a new septic system and a whole new security system because there were a couple of times people broke in and took their dogs back so didn’t have to pay a fine. There are new utility and cleaning equipment to keep animal areas clean and healthy. Also, new major appliances, like a washer and dryer. In general, there were physical upgrades throughout the shelter and to the building itself, and she added that “shelter hours

were increased to six days a week from an inconsistent schedule.”

And when it came to animal protection Lindquist listed many improvements, “We went from two to three animal control officers (ACOs). They’ve been fully trained, to learn how to be better with forensics, like gathering evidence, in cases of animal abuse. They also got bullet proof vests and they got other equipment, including radios. They were using their cell phones before. They were often out in the middle of nowhere and couldn’t get cell coverage. We’ve gone to court on a few cases that we never would have been able to go to court on before.”

She further explained that, “ACOs go on about 150 calls a month and a lot of time it’s about family pets, but also for horses and cattle and goats. Because we have three ACOs and we’re now open six days a week with someone answering phone from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., we’re a lot more able to help the public.”

Lindquist also stated, “The funding was used for veterinary expense. Before, if an animal came into the shelter and it was sick, we often had to put it down. Now we can save many of them.”

SEE LEVY ON A-12

Clampers love history



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

The Nobel Humbug of E. Clampus Vitus chapter 1859 Gary Rakes holds a plaque of commendation from the Kerbyville Museum after the monument dedication April 30.

Safety meeting draws crowd

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

A Public Safety Outreach Campaign kickoff took place May 4 at Wild River Brewing and Pizza.

Over 60 concerned citizens from both established and nascent neighborhood watch groups gathered to hear organizers Guenter Ambron, Jimmy Evans and I.V. Fire District (IVFD) Chief Dennis Hoke discuss the need for improved communication between groups as well as more volunteers and organizations.

Hoke said, “A lot of the ground work is done. I’m willing to give an introductory presentation to as few as three people.” Hoke can be reached through the IVFD business line at: 541-592-2225.

Both Ambron and Evans also offered to help people get started. “New Group Literature Packets” of locally developed guidelines were

handed out at the meeting that included information on getting started, leadership duties, establishing geographical areas and emergency phone trees and use of 2-way radios.

Hoke said the advantage of the radios over cell phones is that one person can convey information to many at the same time. He also stated that an inventory of neighborhood resources will be invaluable in the case of a fire, crippling snowstorm or massive earthquake like the anticipated Cascadian event.

For the past three years IVFD has been actively training the Community Emergency Response Team, volunteers who already assist firefighters with traffic control and other support services.

A central community watch coordinating website is currently in the works. In the meantime, the organizers encouraged neighborhood groups to use services such as www.nextdoor.com to quickly broadcast information.

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