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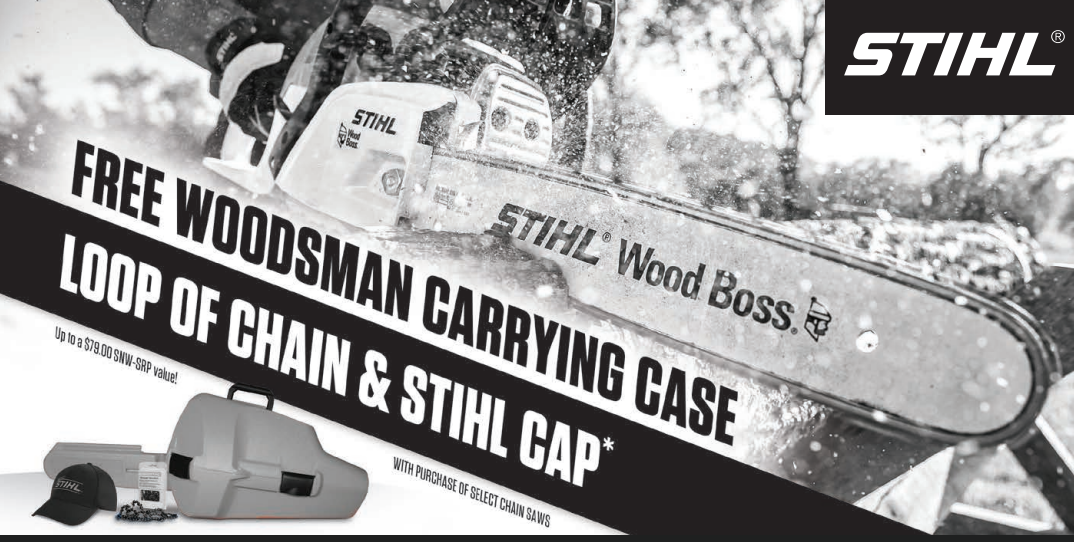


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COUNTY ...
Continued from A-1

Nichols was present at the session and wanted to make sure the commissioners knew that the IVSC was self-funded and explained that the county building was going to be used mainly for the IVSC's Thrift Store which has been recently forced to find a new location. Nichols went on to explain the importance of the Thrift Store to the Cave Junction community.

Commissioner DeYoung asked Nichols if the building was scheduled to be only a thrift store and Nichols said IVSC was committed to a "smooth transition" and they were currently talking to Food & Friends and the Baptist Church to help with their relocation. He also reported that I.V. Soil and Water may be able to stay in the building because they will be able to rent out a few offices.

DeYoung then addressed community concerns about other meeting places to fill the absence of the county building by mentioning the I.V. Family Coalition, I.V. Fire Department and the I.V. Senior Center as possible substitutions.

Commissioner Hare defended the decision to sell the county building by saying it was time to strategically manage their assets instead of having resource liabilities. Hare stressed that the sale from the county building will be reinvested back into the Valley through infrastructure and a fire suppression reservoir.

IVSC Board President Jean Schubert and IVSC board member Patricia Lydick were also in attendance and wanted to stress the benefits to having the thrift store in Cave Junction such as the important venue for citizens to purchase low cost goods



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Council chambers were packed
Wednesday, Sept. 13.

without having to drive out of town. They also explained the multiple ways that IVSC supports the Valley including recreation, fundraisers for schools, resource referral and high school scholarships.

Commissioner Morgan commented that the IVSC had the best proposal on the table and that she will be helping the current public health services provided at the county building find a new home.

All three commissioners voted for the approval of the Real Estate sale.

Other business on the agenda including the approval of Order No. 2017-044: In the matter of establishing the maximum allowable number of inmates to be held in the Josephine County Adult Jail facility. Hare informed us that the cap will now increase to 185 and the commissioners voted 3-0 in favor of the increased capacity of inmates.

One topic of concern during the public comment time allotment was the proposed ordinance for the Rural Residential (RR) 5 acre commercial marijuana ban. Many county residents stood up to voice their opinions.

Cave Junction Mayor Daniel Dalegowski read a letter from the city to the county commissioners stating the city is "heavily dependent on the economic activity related to the marijuana industry" and in summary, under the proposed amendments the city would likely experience a reduction in consumer and economic growth.

In response City Councilor Mark Dillinger announced to the commissioners that it was not a unanimous vote to submit the aforementioned letter.

Additionally, Commissioner Morgan addressed public comment from political activist Mark Seligman about her desire to "ban all commercial marijuana grows." She emphasized that this was not the truth and clarified that she wanted to ban commercial activity in RR-5; "any business should go through the proper permitting process for their business." She explained how the first code proposal hearing will take place Sept. 20 and after hearings it will take 90 days before the ordinance is set. Morgan stressed that the ordinance will be presented to the voters and that the proposal was not about banning cannabis but about being good neighbors.

After public comment, Commissioner Hare stated that the RR 5 proposal was "a complicated issue." It was all about zoning laws and it is already on the books that commercial businesses were not allowed on RR-5. "Enforcement is the key, not a blanket approach to it ..., I am torn about hurting growers that are doing good." said Hare.

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