

IVFD Board gets a new and a few old faces

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

After a prolonged controversy which resulted in the resignations of several board members, including the board's former president Ron Humphres, the Illinois Valley Fire District's (IVFD) Board of Directors has been replenished and they're once again ready to perform their duties.

"It's refreshing to have a board that's engaged. We used to have that but it deteriorated and now I think we have that back again," said Fire Chief Dennis Hoke.

The turmoil was primarily

centered on a handful of improperly executed actions made by Humphres. They involved an attempt to give medical coverage to a former employee without going through the proper channels, incurring an unnecessary legal expense, illegally polling other members of the board and suggesting that disciplinary action should be taken against Hoke for what he alleged were lies regarding events that led up to the controversy.

Carol Dickson, the former board member who exposed Humphres' improper actions and accused the rest of the board as being party to "the good ol' boys system" is now back on the board as its president. Her reinstatement

followed expressed regret that she didn't run for re-election prior to the controversy coming to a head. Although she attempted a last second write-in campaign when Humphres' action were exposed, by that time it was too little too late.

Commissioner Bob Butler, who angrily resigned "in disgust" over the board's prolonged failure to deal with the controversy, has resumed his former position. Butler cited the several months' long controversy surrounding Humphres and his general embarrassment regarding the conduct of the rest of the board as the reason for his resignation. His resignation was preceded by a vote to renew Humphres' presidency for which he was the only dissenter.

Filling the position which belonged to Joe Feldhaus, who resigned alongside Humphres after only being on the board for about a month, is Gary Price. "We needed a reboot," Price said, further adding that his motivation for joining the IVFD's Board of Directors was purely to help end the turmoil.

Although Price has never served on a governmental board before and hasn't regularly attended IVFD board meetings in the past, he has 30 years of experience in business, served 20 years in the military and has been on many organizational assemblies. Price noted that the transition has thus far been "as smooth as silk" and that the fire district's well-oiled mechanism

to bring new board members up to speed with various handbooks and other documents, has greatly helped him along.

While looking through the IVFD's books with his business savvy eye, Price thinks that there may be a potential opportunity to save the district some money. The district has thus far been forced to rely solely on outside auditors and, although more investigation would be necessary, Price thinks that the district may be able to handle it themselves. "Governmental audits—even corporate audits are not cheap. If we can save the district a few bucks by eliminating something that's not necessary that's a good thing," Price concluded.

A spooky candlelit trip through the Caves

On Oct. 28, Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve will host its Haunted Halloween Candlelight Tours. Explore the Oregon Caves by the flicker of candlelight, hearing spooky stories of local history while walking amongst the spiders and the bats. Discover the lesser known tales of these dark caverns.

These eerie tours will traverse the historic route of the Oregon Caves. With lantern in hand you will be guided through the mysterious darkness that lies within the Siskiyou Mountains. Let the myths and tales of times gone by haunt you while you wander through the ancient marble halls. As your imagination takes hold, you will be left with the lingering question, what really lies beneath?

These tours are family friendly with an age restriction of 10 years and up. Costumes are welcome but glitter, excessively large costumes, and capes are not permitted. Reservations are strongly recommended and are available on recreation.gov or toll free at 1-877-444-6777. There will be limited

same day first-come first-serve tours. Only two non-haunted Discovery Tours will be available. Cost is \$10 for seniors and adults and \$7 for those 10-15 years old.

Please do not bring any clothing, footwear, or gear that was used or carried in any cave, mine, or bat hibernation site. Screening procedures are in place to limit the spread of white-nose syndrome, a fatal disease in bats.

Cameras are not allowed on the candlelight tour and backpacks and bags are not permitted. Bring a jacket, the temperature in the cave averages 44 degrees. We strongly recommend good walking shoes; the tour route includes over 500 steps. Cave passages are narrow, short, and winding. Visitors in wheelchairs can access only the first room of the cave.

Oregon Caves is located about 20 miles East of Cave Junction. The last eight miles of the highway are steep and winding. Allow 45 minutes.

For more information about hours and operations during the Haunted Candlelight tours, call 541-592-2100 extension 2262.

Local tax bills include library district

Grants Pass, OR, October 20, 2017—This October property owners will see a new tax rate on their annual tax bill—Josephine Community Library District (JCLD)—at a rate of \$0.39 per \$1,000 assessed value.

This past May, voters approved the formation of a library district in the four library branch areas of Grants Pass, Williams, Wolf Creek, and Illinois Valley. The new tax rate is assessed at a total of \$1,358,236 for the library, which will allow the four branches to be open more hours and improve materials early next year.

"We're thrilled to be receiving public funding for our libraries again," said JCLD Board Member Jennifer Roberts. "We're relieved that we have stable income, and we're excited that the creativity and energy that used to go into fundraising can now be used to provide critical library services to our community."

Because the new library district area is smaller, some residents might not see the library district on their tax bill. To find out if your property

is in the district, visit josephinelibrary.org or co.josephine.or.us to access the district's interactive map.

Taxpayers who would like to add their property to the library district may do so through the annexation process and should call the library to be added to the "opt in" list for next steps. Residents of properties within the library district do not have to purchase a library card for full borrowing privileges. The explanation regarding the process for withdrawing from the district can generally be found in ORS 198.870 to 198.882, and requires that an individual property owner within the district be included for the first two years before they can opt out.

For more information about the tax statement, call the Josephine County Treasure or the Josephine County Assessor's office. To be added to the library's annexation "opt in" list, call the Grants Pass branch at 541-476-0571 or email info@josephinelibrary.org.

Local law enforcement nabs 9 in saturation patrol

Rogue Area Drug Enforcement RADE had a successful day Oct. 18.

The focus of this enforcement effort was to reach locations throughout Josephine County where crimes related to drug possession, use, and distribution are occurring resulting in nine individuals arrested on charges ranging from stolen property, drugs (methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana).

Of note, The Oregon State Police Drug Detection K9 Team stopped a vehicle for speeding on Interstate 5 northbound near mile marker 62 and after an investigation into the driver and passenger, they were arrested with over 200 pounds of processed marijuana. The investigation revealed they were transporting the marijuana to Minnesota.

During the operation, 27 vehicles were stopped, 32 warnings were issued and over 20 subjects were contacted. Individuals were either lodged or cited to appear for their charges.

Anyone with information or questions is asked to call 541-955-6379.

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Libations

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Asstd. Outdoor Vino Wines \$9.39 ea. Reg. \$11.79 ea.

Groceries

Asstd. Guayaki Yerba Mate Energy Drinks \$1.79 ea. Reg. \$2.59

Asstd. Honest Tea Lemonades \$1.79 ea. Reg. \$2.99

Asstd. Blue Diamond Nut Thin Crackers \$2.39 ea. Reg. \$3.59

Asstd. Angies Boom Chicka Pop Popcorn \$2.19 ea. Reg. \$3.79

Produce

Cauliflower \$2.19 ea. Reg. \$4.79 ea.

Zucchini \$1.49 lb. Reg. \$2.49 lb.

Cucumbers \$1.49 lb. Reg. \$2.19 lb.

Heirloom Tomatoes \$2.99 lb. Reg. \$4.79 lb.

Bulk

Cane Sugar 99¢ lb. Reg. \$1.29 lb.

Winter Wheat Flour 89¢ lb. Reg. \$1.09 lb.

Dark Chocolate Chips \$4.99 lb. Reg. \$6.09 lb.

Deli

Grill Menu
Grilled Turkey Bacon Sandwich \$4.99 ea. Comes with lettuce, tomato, side salad or chips. Reg. \$6.29

Salad Case
Asstd. Tamales \$2.99 ea. Vegetarian, chicken or pork. Reg. \$3.89

Breakfast
Breakfast Muffin \$1.99 ea. English muffin, one egg & your choice of meat and cheese. Reg. \$2.69

Grab-N-Go
Branson's Chocolate Bars \$2.79 ea. Reg. \$3.49 Blueberry or Caramel Sea Salt

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For more info: 541-727-8312 or email glcoach2@yahoo.com

Sunday Nov 5 4-6 PM IVHS Commons

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