

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 1 Section, Volume LXXXI No. 3

Published weekly for the residents of the Illinois Valley

All safe in car fire



(Photo by IVFD Media Dept)

No injuries were reported from a car fire on Reeves Creek Rd. Saturday, Jan. 20 when I.V. Fire Department, American Medical Response and Josephine County Sheriff's Office arrived on the scene.

Sheriff working toward putting jail levy funds to use

“Everything that was promised in the levy that people passed, we’re doing,”

Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

The Josephine County Sherriff's Department is diligently reviewing its fourth round of applications so that they can put levy funds, passed by voters in July, to work. In total, 10 new positions will be added to the jail's staff, bringing the total number of operational beds up to 185 out of 260. Sheriff Dave Daniel said that he's hoping to have the process complete in either May or June and reported that funding hit their wallet back in August.

The levy was proposed and passed because of Josephine County's inability to detain criminals until their court date where they would ultimately be charged and sentenced. Currently, and even for relatively serious crimes, perpetrators are released with the expectation that they later appear in court but they simply never show up. Even when arrested again, they're given another court date then released and the process continues.

Unfortunately, three staff members moved out of their positions shortly after the levy was passed, expanding the total number of needed personnel to 13 and extending the time necessary for them to hit their target number. So far, Daniel said, most of the incoming personnel are new to police work with only one having made a lateral shift. A total of six more people are needed to achieve the department's target number.

“Everything that was promised in the levy that people passed, we’re doing,” Daniel said, “We will intake all arrested persons in Josephine County when it’s all said

and done.” As a disclaimer, Daniel added that persons arrested for certain minor crimes may still be caught then released due to sheer volume but that more serious crimes will be effectively dealt with.

As promised, the additional levy funds have freed up resources to increase police presence via additional patrols. In total, three new positions have been added because of the reallocation of funds but two are unfortunately still in training. Additionally, and after having his request granted by the county commissioners for \$400,000 out of the public safety reserve fund, four more positions will be created, bringing the total up to seven. A further officer, paid for by cannabis dollars, will also be added to the department but they'll primarily be working with schools and educating children.

As far as the Illinois Valley is concerned, the levy will not yet fund a night patrol. “We are looking at increasing our hours. We’re still evaluating that to get a better service but it’s certainly not enough for a full 24-hour patrol.”



We now have Options for mental health issues.

Read about it on A-8

Grocery Outlet land use hearing held up by city code

Jason McMillen
IVN Contributing Writer

The land use hearing regarding Main and Main's request to partition off the dirt lot next to Shop Smart, which is currently part of the Junction Inn's property, was held for a second continuance Feb. 2 at City Hall because of the discovery of a requirement in city code that had not yet been met. The location is planned to be host to a Grocery Outlet.

The primary reason for the continuance was to instruct the developer that they must conduct a traffic analysis as outlined in municipal code 17.14.030. The code states, alongside other stipulations, that any development theorized to result in a traffic volume increase of over 300 average daily trips must have an official study. Developer Main and Main's representative Dan Dover, who's perfectly willing to conduct the study, estimates that it'll cost \$15,000 and will take up to four weeks to complete.

The code was primarily brought to the attention of the council by the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO) which holds that the traffic congestion it could create is one of the reasons Grocery Outlet should be located on the north end of town near Dollar General. Two of Cave Junction's city councilors, namely Lindsey Gillette and Jean Ann Miles, are part of the IVCDO.

Dover has thus far rejected the IVCDO's proposed location entirely, further adding that in Grocery Outlet's "mind and metrics" there's no other location in Cave Junction that will work for them. "It may be perfectly good for Dollar General or other tenants but it doesn't work for Grocery Outlet," Dover said, further stressing that the land use hearing is essentially the city deciding whether or not they would like to have a Grocery Outlet come to town.

A Grants Pass land use consultant representing C&K markets, the parent company of Shop Smart, raised a few eyebrows by also addressing the council in opposition of the development with a traffic analysis based argument. "It appears to me that there's not an adequate impact statement done by a traffic engineer to support that that particular intersection can handle that kind of traffic. In our opinion they haven't met the burden of proof for approval of this project at this time."

SEE CODE ON A-10

Healthy U means children too

Anita R. Savio
IVN Contributing Writer

Many in the Illinois Valley may be familiar with Healthy U on River Street in Cave Junction for its exercise programs or its individual and couples counseling programs. But they may be unaware of a trio of innovative youth programs the organization offers in partnership with Lorna Byrne Middle School and Illinois Valley High School. The Passages program, for middle and high school girls, has the longest history, at 20 years of existence, according to Healthy U Executive Director Nicole Rensenbrink.

Rensenbrink, who has a master's degree in social work, described the genesis of the program: At the time, she was providing weekly counseling sessions to a homeless girl who was couch surfing. "The 50 minute sessions seemed ridiculous to me," said Rensenbrink. "Looking around, the biggest resource she had were her friends. I thought, why not try to work with friendship

groups, and try to elevate their ability to be there for each other."

The program now starts in the spring of sixth grade, when teachers recommend girls for participation. Rensenbrink said she often looks for girls who appear to be growing up too fast, but she emphasized that Passages is not just for girls who are at-risk. The program guidelines include staying on track in school, graduating from high school or at least getting a GED, remaining child free till after graduating high school and making sure that everyone feels they can trust each other in the group.

Passages meets once every two weeks during the school day and is facilitated by Rensenbrink and volunteer Nancy Lindquist, who is also a Healthy U board member.

In middle school, the program is mostly about learning how to build relationships with others, often starting with a game.

"Middle schoolers like to be active and laugh a lot," said Rensenbrink.

SEE HEALTHY ON A-10