

Farmers' Market is in season



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

On opening day of the Cave Junction Farmers' Market in Jubilee Park, Alan Laurie (left) picks out some herbs to buy at the dancefarm booth Friday, April 20, 2018.

Local school raises staff to part the water

Brent E. Smith

IVN Contributing Writer

A local group of the seasoned faithful is seeking help to further a cause vital to the Illinois Valley.

Madrone Adventist Elementary School in Cave Junction is an operation sponsored and subsidized in part by the Cave Junction Seventh-day Adventist Church. The success with which the private Christian school has met requires them to add to next year's teaching staff so that they can maintain the high standards that have brought them this far. The school and its supporters are calling upon the community to help bear the financial burden.

A chief cause of the school's success has been the maintenance of a low student-to-teacher ratio. "We like to have one-on-one interaction so that our students receive a high-quality alternative education with higher academics and a safe environment," said Laura Bowlby, principal and head teacher of the school. A change of staff, however, should not be confused with a change in formula. Bowlby noted the importance of remaining a small, family-style neighborhood school, and said that, even though the staff is growing, the school will offer the same one-on-one attention and the same curriculum.

The curriculum used by the school is from the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventists, and provides instruction in character development, language arts (which include reading, writing, spelling and public speaking), mathematics, social studies, technology, music, art and science. The school's secluded location at 4300 Holland Loop Road is nestled in the woods, which allows for extensive science exploration, and has a greenhouse and a large play field for

physical education.

Bowlby, who holds teaching credentials from both the State of Oregon and the Seventh-day Adventists, leads a team of two highly-trained and certified teachers at the accredited school. One of these teachers currently teaches the two-year kindergarten class, which begins with 5-year-olds, while the other teacher leads the first-through- eighth grades. The plan is to hire another certified and credentialed teacher, who will teach students in grades five through eight.

Bowlby said that the hiring of another staff member is needed because of the school's unwillingness to compromise the education of the students. "We want to be able to offer an alternative education to more students in the Valley," Bowlby said, "but, at this time, we can't accept any new students without hiring another staff member, which will, obviously, cost us more money."

While no one is more committed to the quality Christian education of the school's students than their families, many of them live below the poverty line, and can provide only a portion of the \$2,800.00 per year tuition. Bowlby said that the "Partners for Eternity"

program, which allows students to connect with a senior mentor from the community once a week, allows for up to \$100 per month from donors across the country to be applied directly to their tuition. "But, even with all of that," Bowlby remarked, "it's just not enough."

The school engages in fundraising opportunities such as garage sales, a pie sale in time for Thanksgiving each year, and a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale behind Dutch Bros. every three weeks. One goal of holding these fundraisers is that financial support is drawn from those passing through from surrounding areas, which prevents the financial burden from being borne solely by the Illinois Valley Community.

However, with students attending from O'Brien to Selma, and with no discrimination as to their involvement with the church, this remains a community concern and a community endeavor. For information on the school and how to make a tax-deductible donation, as well as information on the community wide student registration picnic May 15 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the school, call 541-592-3330.



The Madrone Adventist Elementary School on Holland Loop.

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Laura Bowlby, principal Madrone Elementary

Galli says he has the experience

April S. Kelley

IVN Contributing Writer

The state of Oregon funded a new Circuit Court Judge position to be voted on in the upcoming election. The three candidates running are Matt Corey, Amanda C. Thorpe and Matthew Galli. After the May election, the top two candidates will move on to the fall race. However, if one candidate gets 50 percent plus one vote, then they will be deemed the winner of the election. Matt Corey ran in the April 18 edition.

Matt Galli said he is running for Circuit Court Judge because he has a passion for the law, and he loves serving the community.

"I have spent the last 25 years building a successful law practice working in all areas of the law," he said.

Galli said he was born and raised in Josephine County. He graduated from Grants Pass High School in 1984. He returned to the area in July 2000 with the intent to settle in Josephine County. Since then, he has volunteered thousands of hours in service to the community.

"To me, the ultimate service to this community will be to serve as a judge," he said.

Galli said he is the most experienced candidate.

"I have criminal experience as both a deputy district attorney and as a defense attorney," he said. "I also have extensive experience with a wide range of civil matters. I have reviewed the case filing statistics, and this position

will entail approximately 60-65 percent criminal and 35-40 percent civil matters."

Galli explained that civil matters include things such as restraining and stalking orders, contract and property line disputes, adoptions, probates, dependency matters – cases where the state has removed a child – and family law matters.

"I am the only candidate that has experience in all of the areas that will come before this judicial position," he said.

If elected, Galli said he will be fair to all litigants who bring cases before him.

"Having the 25 years of wide-ranging experience gives me the understanding, insight and discernment to be able to make the right decisions in all types of cases whether in a child custody matter or a criminal matter."

Galli said another one of his goals is to address the massive increase in controlled substance abuse and addiction in Oregon, and, specifically, Josephine County.

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Matt Galli

Thorpe loves the law

April S. Kelley

IVN Contributing Writer

Amanda C. Thorpe said she is running for Circuit Court Judge because she is passionate about the law and about serving the justice system.

"I love what I do as a lawyer – utilize the law and legal system to help people solve problems," she said. "As a judge, I will be able to do that on a larger scale by using my skills and knowledge to serve the legal needs of the community as a whole by consistently, fairly and dutifully applying the laws of the State of Oregon to the matters in front of me."

Thorpe said she is the best choice for the position because she has an outstanding basis of knowledge and analytical skill that she will apply as a judge.

"I have a reputation for thorough, frank and fair legal analysis of cases, and colleagues consult with me for that informed opinion from time to time," she said. "I am happy to be able to serve as a resource for applying rules or law to cases for colleagues, and to do so for clients that consult me, of course. I am eager to apply those skills to the high-volume case load in Josephine County."

Thorpe said her goal is to serve the community well through fair, consistent and expedient handling of the set before her.

"I want to not only carry out the daily duties of a Circuit Court Judge, but continue to advocate for the legal needs of our community through service on bar committees and in law-related organizations," she said. "I have been able to do so over the last several years and have offered a much-needed voice from a smaller community like ours in what can be the cacophony of voices from larger metro areas. I intend to make the most of the opportunity to serve as a Circuit Court Judge to improve the legal services offered in our community."

Thorpe said she was born and raised in Southern Oregon, and always planned to practice law and raise her family there. She worked at Hughes, Rote, Brouhard & Thorpe, LLP from 2006 to 2018 and recently joined Cauble, Cauble & Selvig, LLP as a counsel.

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