

Smoking duck



(Photo courtesy of JoAnna Gavlik, for the Illinois Valley News)

A help wanted sign was pulled from the wreckage of a Selma favorite, the “Smoking Duck.” A fire erupted around 8:30 a.m. Monday, July 9. Illinois Valley Fire District personnel were assisted by Rural Metro, Oregon Department of Forestry, Grants Pass Fire, AMR, and PP&L. Traffic control was provided by IVFD, CERT and ODOT. Gasquet Fire moved an engine and crew up to the IVFD station 1 to cover the Valley. The cause of the fire is under investigation and no injuries were reported.

City comes out big for public safety

“... I am very confident about what we are going to do with this money and I wish council would be strong and say we are defending what the people wanted. They wanted law enforcement, they want a safe town, I want to go to the park and not be afraid.”

Rebecca Patton, city recorder

By Dan Mancuso  
IVN Staff

“I want to go to the park and not be afraid,” were the most powerful words spoken during the Cave Junction City Council meeting July 9.

Mayor Daniel Dalegowski discussed three proposed taxes to fund law enforcement: pot, food and fuel. He believes that the taxes will bring in more than \$825,000 for law enforcement. A document provided at the meeting has the law enforcement fund proposal broken down as follows:

- \$222,880 that is currently budgeted for law enforcement in the 2018-19 budget.
- \$180,000 per 3 cent per gallon fuel tax.
- \$36,000 from the 3 percent recreational marijuana tax.
- \$295,000 from a 5 percent food and beverage tax.
- And lastly a \$100,000 amount that appears to come from bulk water sales and an updated business license code.

While the fuel and marijuana are based on numbers from the state, the food tax amount is being based on the amount of tax the city of Ashland brings in. The council is using numbers based on restaurants and people in Ashland.

The city of Ashland has 153 food establishments and Cave Junction has only 11 food establishments which is 17 percent of Ashland’s. The population of Ashland is more than 21,500 while CJ hovers just below the 2,000 mark, or 9 percent of Ashland’s.

While the math is unclear it appears the financial demographics between Ashland and CJ have been factored into come up with the \$295,000 number, but that remains unclear.

Three of the councilors voiced concerns about the numbers. Councilor Lindsey Jones voiced concern for restaurants that are struggling. And both Councilors Dan Bosch and Jean Ann Miles wondered if the all of the amounts were too high.

City recorder Rebecca Patton

put the issue in perspective, “I can’t find a host for our Jubilee Park ... the host comes and goes because they are afraid. I want our park back, I want to take the city back so we can go out at nighttime and we won’t have 35 people roaming the downtown that scare us to death; that make us not want to go the 76 Station and buy a soda pop in the middle of the night, it’s not OK. If we don’t get strong and say this is what we want and put this out to the voters, who I believe would be totally on board with all this, we are going to keep talking about this over and over and over again. So, that’s why I’m not afraid to ask for taxes; I am not afraid to raise rates. I am very confident about what we are going to do with this money and I wish council would be strong and say we are defending what the people wanted. They wanted law enforcement, they want a safe town, I want to go to the park and not be afraid.”

SEE SAFETY ON A-2

Where are all the primary care doctors?

CJ Schatza  
IVN Contributing Writer

The world is changing, and visiting the doctor’s office is proof.

In the past, patients made an appointment expecting to see a medical doctor (M.D.) who spent four years in medical school and at least three more in training to get the privilege of serving them. But today, these patients will encounter a plethora of medical specialists with various levels of training, expertise, and capacities to diagnose and treat them when they schedule even a basic checkup.

Why has the integral process of getting medical care changed so much in recent years? Well, truth be told, “The U.S. is short on doctors, especially those practicing primary care, who typically earn less than specialists,” said Hallie Levine, writer for Consumer Reports. “We now have fewer primary-care physicians per person than many other developed nations. Canada, for example, has 1.2 per 1,000 people; the U.S., just 0.3.

“Fewer primary-care doctors mean that it’s harder to get an appointment. The average wait time for a new patient in a big city to see a family-medicine physician, for example, is now 29 days, compared with 19.5 days in 2014...” This appointment drought can be observed even more demonstrably in rural areas such as Southern Oregon. According to Illinois Valley Wellness Resources board member Pat Jenkins, R.N. M.S., “You will find that many of the P.A. (physician assistant) and N.P. (nurse practitioner) positions are in rural areas because M.D.s and D.O.s migrate to areas where there are hospitals.”

SEE MD on A-8

F-15 dogfights shatter the calm

Mark Freeman  
Mail Tribune

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP) — Each year Gabe Howe of Ashland hikes deep into his beloved Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area to really get away from it all.

But on June 21, it was if he had hiked into a virtual video game.

Out of nowhere, F-15 fighter jets streaked across the sky, complete with dogfights and evasive maneuvers as if someone was shooting missiles at them — despite the fact that it’s fire season in this remote area.

“It was like a war zone,” says Howe, executive director of the Siskiyou Mountain Club. “These fighter jets were chasing each other around, sonic booms and even shooting off flares. That’s not the experience I’m looking for.

“It’s not conducive to the management of a wilderness,” says Howe, who shot a short video of a spent flare in the air. “It doesn’t seem they should be doing that in a place of that level of protection.”

Turns out the Oregon Air National Guard enjoys the Kalmiopsis for the same reason Howe does: Getting away from people.

“We don’t like to fly over populated areas,” says Guard Senior Master Sgt. Jennifer Shirar at Klamath Falls’ Kingsley Field, the only F-15 fighter training facility in the United States.

Guard pilots train on weekdays and the occasional Saturday in so-called “Military Operations Areas” mostly in Central Oregon but occasionally in southwest Oregon, smack-dab in one of Oregon’s wildest recesses, Guard records show.

The Kalmiopsis is

part of the Dolphin MOA, a secondary training area that the Guard can use without the consent, blessing or even knowledge of Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest officials because the military and the Federal Aviation Administration control the airspace.

Shirar declined to say how often F-15s enter that area, but she did say training involved dogfights and the shooting of flares.

The flares are actually magnesium pellets that, when ignited, burn less than 10 seconds but at 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, according to the Guard’s 2002 environmental assessment for their use.

The burn temperature is hotter than the aircraft exhaust, so it attracts and decoys heat-seeking weapons fired at the aircraft, the EA states.

A 2017 Guard environmental study states pilots don’t fire the flares lower than 5,000 feet above the ground — far higher than the 1,000-foot minimum to ensure no wildfires occur. Also, every safety precaution is taken, including shots to ensure the flares burn out before they hit the 5,000-foot elevation, Shirar says.

“This is our state, too,” Shirar says. “We live here. We recreate here. We want to keep our state beautiful as well.”

Amanda Lucas, the unit aviation officer for the Forest Service and federal Bureau of Land Management in southwest Oregon, says there have not been any documented fires caused by National Guard flares in Western Oregon, but a few have been found in Central Oregon.

SEE CALM ON A-8