

COUNTY ...

Continued from A-1

In the portion of the meeting reserved for community questions/comments/commissioner response, Councilor Jean Ann Miles provided an update on the grassroots activity surrounding the city’s proactive efforts to “get ahead” on fire suppression by asking the county commissioners to provide a letter of support. Councilor Miles will be going to Salem Jan. 24 to speak to legislators about the summer fire and smoke activity (effects on the economy as well as resident’s health), wildfire fuel reduction, and a fire suppression base at IV airport. She commented that “we don’t want what happened the last two summers being repeated, and we also don’t want another Paradise fire.” Miles also stated, “We don’t want to put pressure on ODF, who have been wonderful, but support from federal side has been lacking, we really want to put the fed’s feet to the fire.” Commissioner DeYoung replied, advising he believes “we need to put people out in the forest to put the fires out while they’re still small; there also is the concern over why we’re having to ask about who is responsible for the activity of suppressing the fire. It can be done, we just need to shift over to how we used to do it.” DeYoung said the commissioners will see if they can draft an ordinance for Josephine County which states that individuals won’t be reprimanded for putting out a fire without permission. He also had a new idea which would be to pick 12 sites to install lightning rods in areas prone to lightning strikes. During the 2018 fire season there were 129 fires started by 1,500 lightning strikes. All but eight were extinguished quickly, and those eight became infernos.

Gene Merrill commented on the internship program which has officially become the “Josephine County Pathways Youth Internship Program”. Merrill wants to provide internships for every youth in Josephine County. Commissioner DeYoung shared a story about his personal experience growing up, where he temporarily delayed his pursuit of a high school diploma, but after obtaining the diploma and entering the workforce he said “I’ve been asked for a diploma, but have never been asked for a grades transcript,” stating that perseverance and completion is what potential employers are looking for, not how well the student did. DeYoung eventually entered the air conditioning and heating field which became his career choice and said, “only in America can you do any darned thing you want!” Commissioner Morgan said she would like to have internships for high school students so they can see how at the local government level they can make a difference.

Kate Dwyer provided an Illinois Valley Community Development Organization update on the 20/20 Strategic Plan, advising there are 12 action teams and she will send a list of the meetings to the commissioners so they can choose what they would like to attend.

Sunrise Ocean, community resident, advised he was excited about the planned Splash Park but was concerned about transients using the location as a shower. Ocean stated there are a few that really need mental health help, while the rest of the transients keep getting arrested then fail to appear for the court date. Councilor Mark Dillinger advised that a court notification system was being put in place to help get people to their court date. The city is also looking at security to keep transients from using the water park as a shower facility.

John Pappas, community resident, reminded the commissioners of the proposal he had authored for fire suppression. Commissioner DeYoung said he’d read it and stated, “We’ve been to the bottom, but there’s a lot of good ideas and now we’re on the way up”.

Commissioner Fowler said he was very impressed by the quantity of Valley residents attending meetings that he can see and feel the excitement in the community. He said he knows there’s been some trouble (offensive graffiti, for example), but the community jumped right into taking care of things, and that acting was exactly what the community needs. Fowler called Gene Merrill a “bright and shining star” for his ongoing efforts to provide the path of opportunity for students. Fowler stated that he too became a tradesman in the electrical field and that he, too, was not prepared to make the transition after his graduation. “The internship program gives students a reason to stay in school and be better prepared for a trade or to enter college for an advanced education”. Fowler also commented that Kate Dwyer was making a tremendous contribution to the community, and that Dave Garcia is leading a group of “rocks stars” in the rejuvenation chamber of commerce. Fowler commended the local community leaders for reaching out regionally.

Commissioner Morgan commented on the activity needed to provide fire suppression with a series of questions such as - “What do we have to do, not have planes out here (at the IV airport)? What is needed to meet the needs for a Heli-pad system? Response is prioritized into protection of 1) life, 2) property, and lastly 3) natural resources, so we need to get creative – how do we fund this?”

Morgan said she has worked closely with commissioners in neighboring counties regarding fuels reduction and stated that “we can do it for less money by reducing it up front, rather than after the fire has decimated our areas. We need to be more creative than we have been.” Morgan advised that Governor Brown wants every family to be ready for an emergency lasting at least three weeks (not three days) and that we need “911 system redundancy”, and that the county has hired someone to coordinate emergency education.

After a few other community members voiced their concerns or comments, the lively meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m. and was followed by a county commissioner/city council workshop.

3 Rivers Chorale gears up for winter theme show

Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

3 Rivers Chorale audiences have learned to expect innovation representing a wide variety of musical periods, with concerts ranging from medieval music to an entire mass by contemporary composer Ola Gjeilo.

Their Jan. 19 concert combines this breadth in interesting ways.

Director Kate Campbell selected two new works by Gjeilo from a recent recording titled “WinterSongs.”

“One is a piano piece called ‘First Snow,’ Campbell stated, “The second is a beautiful rendition of Hildegard von Bingen’s poetry in Latin, ‘Ave Generosa.’ The text of this choral work talks about the innocent young Mother Mary as she is called into relationship with the divine.

“The idea of presenting a January concert that included these two works began to evolve,” Campbell added. “We decided to name the concert WinterSongs and flesh it out with other wintery works.”

The chorale had presented Gjeilo’s “Sunrise Mass” in the Illinois Valley

twice in a three-year period. When Campbell learned of an opportunity to perform the piece under the composer’s direction, she submitted a recording of their performance and the group was accepted.

Last spring, a large number of 3 Rivers Chorale members journeyed to New York City for a week to rehearse and then perform Gjeilo’s “Dreamweaver” and another of his works at Carnegie Hall with the composer playing the piano. Other groups from around the world also participated.

The title of this Saturday’s concert is a nod to Gjeilo and the chorale members’ work with him in New York.

Other pieces to be featured in the concert include John Rutter’s song, “Good Ale”, from his winter-themed suite called “When Icicles Hang.” A second piece from the same collection is based on a line from William Shakespeare’s “As You Like It” called “Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind.”

“Other works are very new, written in the last year or two, and the oldest song is another Hildegard chant from the 12th century,” Campbell said.

Since Campbell wanted

the concert to evoke a sense of warming around the fire, in spite of winter’s chill, it was decided to include some stories and poetry. Choir members submitted ideas for the poems. Some original poems will be read, along with favorites from American poets.

“It was amazing to me how the poems, interspersed among the songs, complimented and paralleled the lyric themes. We ended up not having time for stories -- only poetry!” she concluded.

WinterSongs will be a donation-admission concert, made possible by a grant from Illinois River Valley Arts Council.

The concert will be presented Jan. 19 at 3 p.m. at Immanuel United Methodist Church, 200 W. Watkins Street, near Shop Smart.

The second concert will be at Bethany Presbyterian in Grants Pass, Jan. 20, at 3 p.m. Tickets for the second concert will be sold at the door and in advance at Oregon Books in Grants Pass.

3 Rivers Chorale is a non-profit, all volunteer choir supported by its members and board of directors, Illinois River Valley Arts Council, Josephine County Cultural Trust, local businesses and music lovers.



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Line dancers strut their stuff to the music of the J. Barley Band Friday, Jan. 11 at Wild River Brewing and Pizza Co.

THOMAS'S KENPO KARATE
KENPO CHI
NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL
Sign-up for 1 month
and get the 2nd month free
Limited to new students only. Must sign-up by January 16, 2019
All classes available!
Call now for more information (541)287-0372
or email thomaskenpokarate@frontier.com

Celebrating 33 Years of Service!

- Auto & Truck Repair
- Tires • Alignment
- Towing • Propane

Oregon Caves Chevron
409 S. Redwood Highway • 541-592-3080 • aaa.com/repair

Baseball Safety and Wheelchair Access Project
Cave Junction, Oregon

THANK YOU COMMISSIONERS

Lily Morgan, Roger Brandt, Darin Fowler, Dan DeYoung

\$65,000

To be used as matching for other grants to pay for field lights, wheelchair access upgrades and shade structures at the Jubilee Park Little League field.

Funds came from the sale of the county building in Cave Junction with the intention of reinvesting those funds back into the community.

The SPOT
Karaoke w/ Jammer
First and third
Wednesdays
8 - midnight
OPEN MIC w/ B
Thursdays
@ 7.00pm

JEN AMBROSE
Friday, Jan 11
@ 5:30

from
Taylor's Country Store

DALE HOPPER
Saturday the 12th @ 6
Every Wednesday
Open Mic
6 - 9 p.m.
J. Barley
Friday night @ 6

KARAOKE w/ MARK
Fridays @ 9pm

Saturday Pool
Tourney @ 8

Sportsman Tavern

Art's Red Garter

Food Specials & Football

Thurs - Mon

THE FIREFLIES

@ McGrew's!
FRIDAY, JAN 11
@ 8pm - \$5

Call
541-596-2202
for dinner reservations