

Cave Junction mayor and councilman speak out

Iris Chinook
IVN Contributing Writer

An interview with Mayor Meadow Martell and Cave Junction City Councilor Dan Bosch regarding city government updates was broadcast live on “Valley News and Views” Tuesday, Jan. 14. The interview was conducted by KXCJ volunteer and *Illinois Valley News* reporter Tina Casey Jones.

Martell started the session off with a synopsis of her 2019 summary of achievements for the city of Cave Junction. Major projects completed included new digesters for the city’s waste water treatment plant and the completion of the design phase of

the Rockydale water well upgrades (the construction phase will begin sometime in the summer). The mayor praised and expressed gratitude for the competency of the 10 staff members that keep the city running and then dove into Jubilee Park changes and updates.

First up was the purchase of land adjacent to the park to facilitate the creation of a second ball park so that the town can host tournaments which Councilor Bosch believes will help the economy of the town and improve the park as a whole by including updated park lighting and wheel chair accessibility as well as nature-scaped pathways that will help provide interconnectivity

with the high school and other destinations within the city.

The discussion turned to brief updates on the spray pad project and upgrades to the pavilion and existing playground. The pavilion will receive new skylights, increased storage and folding tables and chairs that can be rolled out of the way for events. The playground will receive a substrate to replace the woodchips that are not wheelchair accessible. Councilor Bosch expressed excitement for the spray pad saying, “As a water-oriented community I think it’s important to have some type of water activity that is wheelchair accessible and safe for children.”

Next up was the increased sheriff patrols in Josephine County. The whole county has been slated for 20 hours of patrol per day, up from 12, which means that deputies will be able to increase their presence in the Illinois Valley. The improvements include the deployment of six additional deputies throughout the county.

Mark Seligman called in with a question about why the mayor supported increased taxes when the county is “running a \$14 million surplus.” Discussion clarified that the funds were actually in the county’s contingency fund to be reserved for emergencies. Tuesday’s broadcast garnered good public participation with questions

received by phone and email.

After the break discussion turned to the closure of the Junction Inn which creates an even larger dearth of accommodations in the Valley. Mayor Martell said there are several developers looking into the opportunity and she hopes the city will see something presented soon.

The interview finished on the topics of First Impression ideas for the city, graffiti, code enforcement and the annexation of county “islands” within city boundaries. “Valley News and Views” can be heard Tuesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. on KXCJ at 105.7 F.M. or by live streaming on www.kxcj.org.

CBD ...

Continued from A-8

Crops that test above 0.3% for the two combined must be destroyed. Growers with crops above 0.5% would be considered in “negligent violation,” and those with repeated violations could be suspended from farming hemp.

In addition, a pilot program for federal crop insurance that would be available to hemp growers in some states specifies that crops lost because of high THC levels won’t be covered.

Those provisions are causing alarm among growers and states with pilot hemp programs allowed under the 2014 Farm Bill. Some states allow THC levels above 0.3%, and

not all include THCA in that calculation. Many permit more harvesting time for growers after THC testing.

Farmers are lobbying for a 1% THC limit and a 30-day harvest window to give them more flexibility while remaining well under THC levels that can get people high.

The draft regulations don’t “seem to be informed by the reality of the crop,” said Jesse Richardson, who with his brother sells CBD-infused teas and capsules under the brand The Brothers Apothecary.

“If no one can produce (federally) compliant hemp flower, then there will be no CBD oil on the market.”

Growers are also worried about the proposed rule requiring that all THC testing be done in a DEA-certified lab because there

are so few of them. Some states have only one, which would serve hundreds of growers in a short harvest window.

Samantha Ford, a third-generation farmer in North Carolina, waited two weeks to get back THC results from a lab last fall and then spent 45 days harvesting her 1 acre (0.40 hectares) of hemp by hand.

“The 15-day window — that’s not feasible, and that was on a small scale,” she said. “I can’t imagine farmers who have acres and acres and acres of it.”

Concerns also have emerged about the workload the draft rules would place on states. Many do random sampling for THC levels, but the USDA would require five samples from every hemp lot — a burden for state agricultural departments, said DeLucia, of the

national ag agencies group.

If federal rules are too onerous and expensive, some states might drop their hemp programs. In those cases, farmers would have to apply for licenses with the USDA, and at this stage it’s unclear how U.S. officials would manage or pay for a nationwide licensing program, DeLucia said.

Under the 2018 Farm Bill, the USDA must approve state plans for hemp programs. Louisiana, Ohio and New Jersey last month were the first to get the green light — but those plans might need to be reworked after final rules are written.

“What we don’t want to see is states having to write their rules and then have to change the rules again and rewrite them” after 2021, said Steenstra, of Vote Hemp.

RED ...

Continued from A-1

The contract with Place Studios, LLC passed unanimously 3-0 while Order 2020-002 passed 2-1, with Morgan abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

During requests and comments from citizens, Kevin Fieguth was first to speak. A fourth-generation Oregonian and 30-year Wilderville resident, he appeared at the WBS on behalf of the Josephine County Liberty Watch group. His concerns included the red flag gun confiscations taking place in Josephine County and their implementation. Fieguth claimed that these confiscations violate the county charter and that there is no due process involved. He also warned of ‘severe consequences’ if the situation continues, referencing a large Second Amendment rally taking place in Virginia that has caused a state of emergency to be put in place due to credible threats by right-wing militias expected to attend. In addition, he called the process of confiscating weapons a ‘slippery slope’ and said a dangerous situation could occur if law enforcement tries to take

a firearm from somebody unwilling to surrender it. Another concern of his was ‘illegal’ window tinting on sheriff’s vehicles. “It’s really crazy when law enforcement can go and just do what they want to do through county maintenance,” Fieguth said, “and have these dark windows put on. Okay? The county is gonna get a lawsuit against them if these aren’t taken care of. I can guarantee it, because discussion is already in the air for that. Okay?” Fieguth also described a recent training video the sheriff released, calling it “thug-ocracy.” “Whatever happened to protect and serve?” he asked. His time expired but Fieguth did not stop ranting against law enforcement, so Fowler had to cut him off. The angry citizen shouted, “There’s more!” on his way out. It will have to wait for the next business session.

Morgan said during commissioner responses that she does not know what is going on with red flag laws in the county, but since it is a state law, local law enforcement is obligated to uphold it. She added that she would like to know more about the matter and that due process is important. Morgan was also unaware if the tinting matter was in violation of any laws, but explained that

the sheriff has been using a third party vendor for vehicle maintenance.

“I’m a real advocate of the Second Amendment,” Commissioner Dan DeYoung led with. “I would be interested in what the trigger is for the red flag laws. Sometimes, you know, there’s some people out there that have guns, you know, we talk about, ‘Take away the guns and only the criminals are gonna have guns’. Well, maybe you’re blowing the whistle on a criminal next door. And, you know, you’re avoiding something really bad happening (by taking away a criminal’s gun).” DeYoung pledged to look further into the issue. Morgan remarked when DeYoung had concluded his accord that she had just sent an email to the district attorney requesting information about red flag laws in the county.

“I really appreciate the way Kevin (Fieguth) approached the board,” said Fowler. “With some specific items to look at and not just complaints and broad strokes... The red flag law just really seems in conflict with our Second Amendment, but it’s the law of the land.” Fowler concurred with Fieguth that it can be dangerous to suspend guns from people who “have

shown some unpredictable behavior... Those aren’t the only guns. He probably has friends that have guns or relatives and that could make a situation escalate quickly... I really have a problem with the law; but it is the law.”

Moving on to the

consent calendar, Fowler read the items under consideration, which included a Department of Revenue ORMAP intergovernmental agreement (IGA) contract for digitalization of cadastral maps and a Josephine County tree planting contract with

IB Reforestation, LLC. The consent calendar passed in its entirety by a margin of 3-0.

As always, visit the county’s official YouTube channel to watch the WBS in its entirety. The Jan. 15 session clocked in at just over an hour and 20 minutes.

SPORTSMAN TAVERN

KARAOKE

EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING COCKTAILS

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE AND HEAR ALL OF YOU





Dental Insurance

Call for dental coverage today to help save money on big dental bills.

This is real dental insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company that helps pay for over 350 procedures – cleanings, fillings, crowns, even dentures.

- **No annual maximum**, no deductible
- See any dentist you want – including your own
- Over 50? Coverage as low as \$1 per day

Call now to get this **FREE** Information Kit

1-855-977-9615

dental50plus.com/valley



Physicians Mutual

Here's the information you requested on Dental Insurance

*Individual Plan. Coverage not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/ certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN) 6197

AW19-1034