

# CITY ...

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“Citations are being issued and non-registered, non-insured, non-licensed water trucks are being drained and towed “as we speak.” There was also a water truck towed on Arrowhead Drive.”

Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) contract planner Ryan Nolan was in attendance to present a land use request. An application for annexation by Randall and Laurie Pointer for 328 Hamilton Avenue was submitted in order to designate the property to single family residential with services from the city of Cave Junction. The tax lot is currently zoned Rural

Residential 5 (RR5) and is part of an island of county property within the city limits.

Nolan reviewed the application to make sure the land use fits properly with the Cave Junction Urban Growth Boundary. Nolan said, “The annexation meets all necessary requirements in order to be compliant with Oregon Statutes.” The property is adequate to be connected to city services such as sewer and water. The motion was approved by council and the second public hearing on the annexation will be held Aug. 9.

Martell said, “I am pleased to get the experience of closing one of the county island properties within the city.”

Laura Mancuso,

program coordinator from I.V. Wellness Resources, informed council that the Food and Friends program, operating out of the I.V. Senior Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. - noon, is looking for Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers and servers. You can learn more information by calling Rogue Valley Council of Governments Food and Friends program at 541-955-8839 or call the local Meals on Wheels coordinator, Jim Nelson, at 541-415-4218.

Jean Ann’s Gem: “If you don’t like something change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude about it.”



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

**A water truck is filling up at the water plant on S. Junction Avenue Monday, July 19. The city recently had to repair the street due to water truck traffic.**

# COUNTY ...

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Guenter Ambron of the Illinois Valley piggybacked on comments made by the Hinkles, using his time to slam the pharmaceutical industry and alluded to potential criminal prosecution of Coronavirus Task Force member Dr. Anthony Fauci over vaccine patents, citing no provable instances of wrongdoing by the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases.

Selma resident Mark Seligman offered a

counterpoint to other commenters’ anti-vaccine rhetoric, saying that Oregon has reopened and COVID-19 deaths and infections are down because of the increasing vaccination rate. “You guys and all your constituents wanted Josephine County open again... Many states are reopening; they’re reopening because more and more people are safe from the vaccine, that unfortunately, you three do not support.”

Seligman went on to criticize the commissioners individually, calling Vice Chairperson Herman Baertschiger a “nontransparent figure” for not responding to any of his emails over the last three years when Baertschiger was a state senator. He also noted

his disgust as a Jewish person over a “flippant remark” made by Baertschiger and DeYoung allegedly comparing hand sanitizing protocols at the Josephine County Jail to actions taken by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

At the end of his remarks, Seligman commented on the county’s parting of ways with YouTube, saying that the reason the social media company took down video of board meetings was because the commissioners would not push back on conspiracy theories about the pandemic and the vaccines. He accused the board of “censoring” people when they don’t like what they say, but let misinformation slide when they do like what is said.

Off the topic of the pandemic, Judy Erins spoke about supporting educators and opposing critical race theory; David Darnell raised concerns about land preservation legislation sponsored by Senator Ron Wyden called the River Democracy Act, which he feels would have a negative impact on landowners; and Leo Goodman of Takilma said that natural immunity is far superior protection against COVID-19 compared to vaccines.

During commissioner responses, Commissioner Darin Fowler slammed the state government for stripping away “freedom of choice” and forcing mandates upon the people. He also addressed requests from the Hinkles to pass legislation against future lockdowns by saying it can be “tricky” to have a “preemptive

resolution” in place that prohibit unknown contingencies. However, he listed off other actions the commissioners have taken against pandemic mandates. “I think you know what side we’re on on this one,” Fowler concluded.

Baertschiger said that there’s so much conflicting information on COVID-19 that he doesn’t know what to believe anymore. “I think the biggest takeaway from this whole pandemic is people don’t have a lot of trust in government anymore. It’s really sad. So, you know, I hope we’ve learned from this pandemic on how to handle these situations a little bit better.”

DeYoung argued against Seligman’s accusations of censorship, and said that the Selma resident was nearly asked to step away from the podium for being “abusive” as a result of his comments. He also said he was taken aback by a letter he got saying he “has blood on his hands for not stopping COVID.” “Nothing could be further from the truth,” said DeYoung, and he went on to assert that the board followed all the state rules that were put in place.

“We don’t believe anybody anymore, so I just say you believe yourself,” DeYoung commented on the conflicting information being shared about COVID-19.

DeYoung concluded, “This America is supposed to be you can feel any way you want here and not be persecuted because of it. Not true anymore...”

# JONES ...

Continued from A-1

Eventually this area will hold three or four rows of outdoor metal tables coated for heat resistance with an umbrella insert for shade. There will also be an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) table included for those in a wheelchair. “I’m checking around for the best prices and would like to buy four tables at a time. So far, the tables are costing around \$700 a piece by the time you include shipping,” explained Jones.

Another project completed under Jones’ watch is the installation of 21 high resolution security cameras, which she feels is critical to keeping her students and building safe.

In addition, Jones understands the special needs of some of her students. Starting in the fall, Jones will be inserting at least two standing desks with silent swivel bars in the back of each

classroom. “This will be especially nice and helpful for the kiddos that live with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder).”

To better engage the students with in-classroom learning, Evergreen will be updating its teaching techniques with TVs, tablets and speakers. With this system, teachers will be able to be both interactive and available to the students. Using speakers and tablets, teachers can continue to demonstrate examples to the class while walking around the room to help individual students.

A major goal Jones has is to remodel the oldest building on the school campus that was the original elementary school.

If you would like to donate money to Evergreen Elementary School for their outdoor learning space tables with a personalized plaque you can call the front office at 541-592-3136 and the mailing address is 520 W. River St, Cave Junction, OR 97523.

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## Evergreen Elementary School Table Donation and Memorial Program

Evergreen would love the community's help in finishing the new outdoor eating area and student work space.

The school is looking to add 12 tables to this newly designed area.

Your \$700 sponsorship will help us complete our project! Each donation includes a small plaque on the table.

**YES** I'm interested in donating a bench—enclosed is a check to Evergreen Elementary School in the amount of \$700. Plaque style preferred:

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