

Ten Minutes with...



...LaVina Fonseca, native CJ resident

What do you do for a living?

Well, I retired in 1990 as secretary, bookkeeper and payroll for Rough & Ready Lumber Co. I worked for them about five years. It was wonderful working out there doing payroll; I remembered all the names and birthdays of the guys there. People used to ask me, “When’s my wife’s birthday?” I remember when it’s important.

What did you do before working there?

I’ve been back and forth to California. I’ve been working mostly as bookkeeper and secretary. We used to own where Carlos’ Mexican restaurant is. My ex-husband and I built a place that was called Old Timers; it was a restaurant and lounge. We served things like steak-and-lobster and prime rib. We did that from ’80 to ’85, when we sold it to Bob and Sharon Sole, who owned Tortilla Junction; where the Blue Marlin was. I also managed 313 apartments in Lancaster Calif. I lived there from ’86 to ’90 and then came back here.

What brought you back here to CJ?

I just decided I gotta’ come back to Oregon; I’m just not happy if I’m not in Oregon. So I moved back up here with my daughter in Medford. On my birthday, I came over to the Jubilee Celebration, where I met my husband, Ron. Together, we have 23 grandkids and five great-grandkids.

Seen much change in the time you’ve been here?

Oh boy, has it changed. It’s not that little sleepy community any more. When I lived on Holland Loop, we used to take the bus to Selma for third and fourth grade. The school was in Kerby; it’s not like it is now. When I went, first to eighth grade were all in one big room. It went from the one room, to another building for 5-7 grades; then they built the high school in Cave Junction. I used to take a lunch to school, and I took a lunch for coming home on the bus because it was such a long ride. We went to school in the dark and came home in the dark. Those were the days when it was really a little community; everyone knew everyone. You couldn’t go anyplace without seeing someone that you knew. I also remember big trees along the highway that aren’t here now, even in the middle of town.

This must have been a big contrast to California?

Oh boy, my parents took me down there kicking and screaming, believe me, I didn’t want to go. I think I spent my first year in school down there in the bathroom because I was always afraid. I went from attending a small-town school with a class of about 25 kids, to a class with 648 kids, just half of my senior class in California. When I was in school here, we didn’t care who was in your class; everybody was in it. We all played softball together, did track together; nobody cared what grade you were in, you were just in school together.

What did you do for fun back then?

My grandpa, Buck Smith, used to have a pool hall in Cave Junction. He started the Rogue Valley Ballroom where my sister and I used to go and sing with his band. We had the first live T.V. show here on channel five, from ’54 to ’57. It was Bobby Champion and the Melody Wranglers. It was an hour of singing and playing every Saturday night. Then, later at the ballroom, there was a dance every Saturday night. My grandpa got involved with all kinds of country western singers in the valley; he used to bring them all in - Jimmy Wakely, T. Texas Tyler, Tennessee Ernie, and Betty Hart; they all came here to visit with grandma and grandpa. They used to go down to the Chit Chat, where the Red Garter Saloon is now, and sing for people just because they enjoyed the people here in this valley.

What do you like best about the valley?

It’s a great place for kids to grow up. I love the people and the friendliness. I love knowing everybody. It’s a comfortable, nurturing feeling to get to know everyone so closely here in our community. I’m kind of a hugger/kisser type person. That’s the way I was raised here; you see someone in the store and walk up to them and hug them and say, “Hi, how ‘ya doing?”

My mother used to say you need one person growing zucchini in the valley. Because if you get out of your car and leave it for very long, someone will put a bunch in the car so you don’t have to grow any yourself. That’s what’s nice here, people are always giving and sharing.

I also love the idea that every season is the best season. I say, oh my gosh, it’s spring now; it’s just so beautiful, all of the trees just washed their leaves all off. Then the summer comes, and you can swim; then that’s the best season. Then fall is my really favorite; because I love to see all the colors of the leaves. And then comes winter. I really don’t mind it, especially since I don’t have to get out in it any more. I just love to see the snow.

What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

Pralines and cream. I just like that flavor. It’s kind of carmelly in there and I like those crunchy things ... that must be the pralines.

~Interview and Photo by Shane Welsh



SIGNS OF SPRING -
A wide range of arts-and-crafts items and other ‘exotic’ and valley merchandise, including plants, was featured during a Spring Market on the grounds of Illinois Valley Family Coalition on Saturday, May 1. The event also included live music.





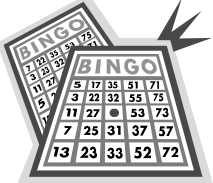
**Day-Time
Winner-Take-All
Bingo**

I.V. Senior Center, 520 E. River St., Cave Junction

**Saturday, May 8
1 to 4 p.m.**

3-game sheets just 25-cents!
Snack bar opens noon:
Hamburgers, hot dogs & homemade desserts

*Open to all
Come play
and win!*





**THE
ARKANSAW
BEAR**

By Aurand Harris

Directed By
Jennie May Donnell
& Jack Dwyer

**May 13, 14, 15
7:00 PM**

Illinois Valley High School

Admission: \$3 each • Children under 12 Free
All donations will go to the IV High School Theatre Fund

IVHS Activities Calendar
Brought to you by the folks at



592-3556
Cave Jct.
469-7545
Brookings/
Harbor

Blame us if your life goes to Pizzas!

THURSDAY, MAY 6
*JV golf at Applegate 3:30 p.m.
*JV baseball vs. Rogue River - here - 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 7
*Track at Rogue River To be announced
*Barker field trip to SOU all day
*Movie Night - café 6 p.m./8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 8
*Varsity softball vs. Henley here noon (doubleheader)
*Varsity baseball at Henley noon (doubleheader)

MONDAY, MAY 10
Boys golf at Shield Crest 11 a.m.
*Girls golf at Harbor Links noon
*Hansford to beach all day

TUESDAY, MAY 11
*JV baseball & Varsity softball at Lakeview 4:30 p.m.
*Varsity baseball vs. Lakeview - here - 4:30 p.m.
*Girls golf at Quail Point noon
*Boys golf at Eagle Point noon

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12
*FFA banquet - 6 p.m.
*Hansford to Eugene

Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet.
- African proverb -

Spring is coming...

...leave the babes in the woods

Baby wildlife have not been abandoned when you see them alone. They have been placed there by their mothers while the mothers gather food. Babies taken from their mothers almost always die. If you love baby wildlife, leave them alone.



Brought to you by
OREGON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



It is perhaps a more fortunate destiny to have a taste for collecting shells than to be born a millionaire.
- Robert Louis Stevenson -