

Here, There & Everywhere

Military, postal veteran new postmaster for CJ

By **CHRISTINA HILL**
Correspondent

After serving the Cave Junction Post Office for the past 19 years, Bob Richardson, the now-former postmaster, decided it was time to retire. With his departure, he left a void that would be hard to fill.

However, all that has changed since the arrival of Cave Junction's new postmaster, Dan Blau. Blau, who is moving here from Lebanon, Ore., may be new to the valley, but he is no stranger to the postal service.

Immediately after graduating in 1975 from Canby Union High School in Canby, several miles south of Portland, Blau entered the U.S. Air Force as a ground equipment repairman for four years. He then spent an additional two years in the reserves. In 1981, he served the Oregon Air National Guard as an F-15 armament crew chief for the next seven years.

At the same time, Blau decided to take the postal service test that would change the course of his life. He passed.

"I started out my career in Salem as a city letter carrier from 1981 through 1993," Blau said.

Blau's commitment to the postal service promoted him to many ranks including a supervisory and station management position, an officer-in-charge position and a delivery units supervisory position.

Being postmaster is

Club News

Native Plant Society

On Saturday, July 10, Siskiyou National Forest botanist Karen McCullough will lead a Native Plant Society field trip to Young's Valley just inside the Siskiyou Wilderness.

A wide variety of plant communities typical of the western Siskiyou will be viewed. Hikers for this moderate 5-mile hike should meet at 9 a.m. at the Illinois Valley Visitor Center in Cave Junction.

Women's Golf

On Tuesday, June 22, the Illinois Valley Women's Golf Club played a Low-Net Tournament. Winners:

1st place, Marjorie Culbertson. 2nd place, Kathy Gibney.

the ultimate reward for years of dedication.

"I decided to put in a request for this area," he said. "I enjoy Cave Junction because it's a small town, and it has a lot drier climate than up north. It's just a good-old fashioned town, small, yet it has a lot of retail outfits where you can buy stuff, and it's close to California, where you can go to the beaches," Blau said.

Blau is originally from Paris, France. His first trip to the United States was in 1962 on the "Queen Mary." His family moved around from New York, New Jersey and California until they finally settled in Canby. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1970. Besides Blau, his wife, Debbie, a native Oregonian, and his daughter, Britni, will be moving to the valley as well.

Blau first met his wife when he was 13. She was 9. They were next-door neighbors until he left for the Air Force.

"She was the girl next door," he said. "After being away for four years, I came home and went next door to the neighbor's house, and there she was, all grown up," said Blau.

They dated for two years before they were married in 1981. They will celebrate their 23-year wedding anniversary this November.

Debbie and Britni are waiting to move here until later this summer.

"My wife had her own child-care business, so she might look into doing that here," said the new postmaster. "She worked in schools, too. My daughter is taking it (the move) just like any 13-year-old

would. She'll be an eighth-grader at Lorna Byrne this fall," said Blau. "I've heard that the high school has a good equestrian team, and my wife and



Dan Blau

daughter used to board horses so we might get into that."

Blau, who is waiting for his house in Lebanon to sell, has made the journey down to the valley anyway.

"I'm living in a hotel, until I can find a place to rent and once I've checked out the area well enough, I'll buy a house," he said.

Blau didn't officially start his new career as postmaster until Saturday, June 26, but he was here early to get his new office transferred and to get things set up.

"I'm looking forward to serving the community and will do a good job at it," he said. "I also look forward to meeting everyone and eventually getting more involved in the community after we get settled down," he said. "I used to be a chairman on a school board, so I will probably look into that here."

Between the Air Force and the postal service, Blau has nearly 30 years of federal experience.

In addition, he has a bachelor of arts degree in human resources. Obtaining his degree was not easy, but he accomplished it while working full time during the day and taking classes at night. He graduated from George Fox University in Newberg in 1988.

SENIOR SALE - Illinois Valley Senior Center will hold a "gigantic" yard sale on Saturday, July 3 beginning at 8 a.m. Breakfast also will be served from 8 to 11 a.m. at 521 E. River St. in Cave Junction. See the ad elsewhere in this issue.

COUGAR BUDGET PLAY - Due to Three Rivers School District budget cuts, funds are needed if there is to be a varsity football team at Illinois Valley High School. The goal is \$10,000, and community participation in one of the many fund-raisers the team will have this summer help is requested to raise the money. One way to help is to donate a dollar at Shop Smart, and the donor gets to place his or her name on a paper football.

Additionally, Cougar football players will bag groceries at Shop Smart on Saturday, July 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and ask for community support.

Also, I.V. Boosters have raffle tickets for a red Inner City scooter. Tickets are available at Home Valley Bank, Taylor's Sausage Country Store, and Radio Shack/CJ Video Mart. Funds from that effort will go toward an announcer's booth at the new IVHS football field. The drawing will be held at the July 4 alumni picnic in Jubilee Park.

COMMUNITY FIRE MEET - Public meetings to discuss the Illinois Valley Community Fire Plan will be held by Illinois Valley Fire District on Wednesdays, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the following locations: July 7, Takilma Community Bldg., 9367 Takilma Road; July 28, RCC Kerby Belt Bldg., 24254 Redwood Hwy.; Aug. 11, IVFD Fire Station 4, 5465 Holland Loop; Aug. 18, Josephine County Bldg., 102 S. Redwood Hwy. in Downtown CJ. I.V.F.D. Fire Prevention Coordinator De Spellman will lead meetings.

PHONE BOOK RECYCLE - Recycling for used phone books is available for Illinois Valley through SPARC Enterprises recycling drop box at Select Market, 135 S. Redwood Hwy in Downtown CJ. If every business and resident of Josephine County lined up their outdated copies of QuestDex directory end-to-end, the line would stretch nearly 13 miles, according to QuestDex.

NOTEPAD - Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance advocates began assisting more than 20 women a month in 2000. It has grown to more than 53 women a month in April 2004, 27 who had never used its services before ... **Southern Oregon Sanitation** office will be closed Monday, July 5, but pick-up routes will be unchanged... **Reb Bev**, who leads Beit Emmanuel, a Messianic congregation in I.V., prefers the term "angeled eggs," rather than deviled ... **T-shirt:** I'm not bossy. I just know what you should be doing ... **Another T-shirt:** I don't have an attitude problem, jerk ... **One more T-shirt:** I'm only wearing black until they make something darker ... **Two vultures** board an airplane; each is carrying two dead raccoons. The flight attendant says, "I'm sorry, but only one carrion is allowed per passenger."

LAST WORDS - We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future. (Franklin D. Roosevelt)

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