



Cassandra Newton-Miller (Photo by Michelle Binker/‘IVN’)

Scratchboard art featured at Sterling I.V. Fine Artists member Cassandra Newton-Miller displays work

By DOROTHEA HOVER-KRAMER
Talented Illinois Valley artist Cassandra “Sandy” Newton-Miller is presenting her unusual artwork -- oil paintings and scratchboard art -- at Sterling Savings Bank in Cave Junction during February.

The event is sponsored by the Illinois Valley Fine Artists association that has been active in the community for more than 30 years. Sandy began teaching herself to paint and work with scratchboards in the early 1960s. Kreskotech, known more popularly as scratchboard art, uses a sharp knife to pare a

dark cover from an underlying medium -- that can be white, copper, silver, or gold -- to produce unique three-dimensional effects. Sandy has produced hundreds of pieces of her work since then and displays regularly at the Guild Gallery in Kerby and Word & Pictures Gallery in Brookings. She has sold her work in Reno, Sacramento, and the Bay Area as well as locally. She enjoys her family and friends by going on outings such as a recent two-week cruise to Hawaii. She has two sons and a grandchild in Tillamook; and a daughter in Red Bluff,

whose son is currently posted in Afghanistan. “I like working on contrast and details in my pictures,” she states. “I’ve been a member of the Fine Artists group since 1989 and find the fellowship of meeting every week to work on an art projects stimulating and encouraging.” She is current vice president of the group. Any Illinois Valley resident can join the group Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the large open studio in the back of the RCC Learning Center in Kerby. Coffee’s always on. For further information, phone Sandy at 592-3949.

USFS consolidation said about efficiency New Wild Rivers Ranger District consists of former I.V. and Galice districts

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Monday, Jan. 29 announced a final step in its consolidation with nine U.S. Forest Service ranger districts combining into five to provide for greater efficiencies and streamlined work operations. “In those areas where we have consolidated districts, they have already been functioning as consolidated units for more than four years,” said Scott Conroy, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest supervisor Scott Conroy. “This final consolidation step will not have an impact on our workforce or our presence in communities,” he said. “It also will not change our work or our

mission or our levels of customer service.” The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest will continue to maintain offices and provide fire suppression resources in each of the communities it already serves. The changes: The Galice Ranger District combined with the Illinois Valley Ranger District will be named the Wild Rivers Ranger District. The Prospect district combined with the Butte Falls district will be named the High Cascades Ranger District, and the Chetco district combined with the Gold Beach district will be named the Gold Beach Ranger District. The Applegate district combined with the Ashland

district will be named the Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District. The Powers district remains named the Powers Ranger District. While it is not a new practice for the forest service to rename districts, it also doesn’t happen often. During the past 100 years that the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has existed, district sizes and names have periodically changed, largely in response to changes in transportation access and needs for efficiencies. The official decision to consolidate the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest was made in a letter signed by forest service Chief Dale Bosworth on March 19, 2004.

Intense search, radio help locates man

Following a two-hour search for a missing Alzheimer’s patient in Grants Pass, he was located walking along Interstate 5. Ronald D. White, 81, missing for more than two hours before officials were alerted, apparently was found because radio stations,

contacted by GP Dept. of Public Safety (GPDPS) and Josephine County Sheriff’s Office (JCSO), broadcast the man’s description. Sheriff Gil Gilbertson, Rural/Metro Fire Dept. Chief Phil Turnbull and officers of Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety responded to

I-5 after citizens phoned to report the man’s possible location. White was returned to his residence unharmed. The search was conducted by GPDPS regular and Search And Rescue (SAR) officers, JCSO’s SAR unit and others.



ILLINOIS RIVER VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL celebrated achieving nonprofit status as an IRS 501(c)3 agency Wednesday night, Jan. 24 in the Josephine County Bldg. in Cave Junction. Attendees included (from left) arts council board members Judy Hoyle, Patti Sergi, Mark Rehmar, Patti Culver, Sena Mitton, and Dorothea Hover-Kramer. The new status means that the council is eligible to apply for sizable grants from donor foundations for its well-known Learning Through Arts (LTA) program at Lorna Byrne Middle School. The group already has received \$1,500 from the Josephine County Cultural Coalition to fund the arts program linked to Asian studies in March and the Africa project scheduled for May. To become an LTA volunteer, phone Mitton at 597-4448. (Photo by Dale Sandberg for ‘IVN’)

TRSD allocates anti-vandalism money

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer
Approval to transfer \$41,000 in contingency funds to help combat vandalism at schools including Evergreen Elementary School and Illinois Valley High School came from the Three Rivers School District (TRSD) Board during its meeting Monday night, Jan. 22 in Merlin.

The board also agreed to transfer \$35,000 to combat vandalism at IVHS, Fleming Middle School and Manzanita Elementary School in Merlin. According to TRSD Director Dave Toler, the \$6,000 for Evergreen will be paired with a \$6,000 grant from the district’s insurance provider and used to battle continued vandalism at Evergreen.

“Public facilities, unfortunately, are a common target for vandalism,” Toler said. “Historically, we haven’t had as much of a problem at Evergreen. But suddenly, we’re seeing it.” Toler said that video surveillance equipment has helped halt incidents at Illinois Valley High School (IVHS) and Lorna Byrne Middle School (LBMS). However, he said the recently transferred contingency funds likely will be spent on additional lighting and alarm systems.

“It costs us a lot of time, as well as dollars, to replace the stuff that gets damaged,” Toler said. “What we need to do is to try and do some prevention along those lines.” Toler said that part of the problem is a lack of personnel inside the buildings at night. Custodial duties could be scheduled for that time, Toler said, but such a change would be difficult to implement. “It does help a lot to have somebody on-site,” Toler said. “But you can’t do that for the entire night,

especially for a smaller school.” “Unfortunately, we’ve been getting hit in a lot of places in the district, not just in Cave Junction,” Toler said. “It happens way too much.” Toler said he plans to resign from the board within the next few weeks, as his county commissioner duties have become more time-consuming.

“I need to find the time to wind out of it, and to find that right time and place,” Toler said. “I think I’m nearing that now.” Toler said that he has been putting in 50 to 60 hours a week with the board of commissioners, and that those obligations have caused him to miss some TRSD board meetings. But he has a few more school

board matters to tend to before announcing his resignation, he indicated. “I’ll bring some things to closure, matters before the board that I’m involved in,” Toler said. “There are just a few things I need to finish up with the board. Then I’ll be ready.”



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