

# Watercolor artist displays talent at Sterling

By Darcy Wallace  
IVN Staff Writer

Patricia "Patsy" Heller has always been drawn towards watercolor painting, and now has expanded her mediums to include oil and acrylic designs.

She moved from Southern California to Cave Junction in 2005, and it wasn't long before she began participating in the local arts community. She found supportive arts group in Kerby for inspiration and friendship, and she's a juried member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon as well as Encino, Calif.

Now, she's the new featured artist at Sterling Bank in Cave Junction, showing several of her paintings in watercolor, oil and acrylic.

One featured work is "Tres Burros," showing donkeys on a dry plain with their master standing beside them, from central Mexico in San Miguel de Allende. She painted her mother's barn deep within a forest in "Red Barn," just before it was painted green.

Another shows her family's pump house covered with a blanket of unexpected snow from the spring called "Last Snow." A striking oil painting "Jamaica Market" took a long time to complete, Heller said, but the work paid off.

"I've been doing this since I was a little kid," Heller said. "In restaurants, I would be looking at all the pictures and thinking, how'd they do that?"

Heller said she's likely to stop and sketch something or take a picture whenever she sees something she likes that could later become a painting.

"I'll sketch people wherever I am, in a restaurant waiting for dinner, or waiting at a stoplight, or even in a

painting session [at Kerby Artists Guild]," Heller said. "I love to draw in there."

According to Heller, her training has been a combination of occasional workshops and community college courses combined with lots of practice. She started to focus on watercolor in 1986, but has taken on acrylic and oil in recent years to expand her knowledge.

"Acrylics frustrate me now as much as watercolors did in the beginning, maybe more," Heller said. "I haven't figured it out yet. It used to be that I didn't like the scratching of the oil painting, but I'm getting over it. I'm actually getting to really like [oils] now."

Heller said she's been lucky enough to study with renowned artists such as Robert E. Wood, Milford Zornes and fairly recently, Charles Reid.

"I love the way the colors mingle," she said. "They sort of take a life of their own. I think they're kind of mysterious. I love what they do."

For some, a drawback of watercolor is the difficulty in creating enough depth in the pictures. But Heller has experimented with gesso, a primer sometimes used on a canvas before painting, or striation, a number of parallel grooved lines to create a 'striped' effect.

But many times, Heller is happy to stick to the basics; unlike the materials and mediums needed for acrylics, she enjoys the simplicity of watercolor in its most basic form.

"I guess I don't care for all the gimmicks," she said. "I prefer the straightforward me, paper and water."



Patsy Heller at Sterling Bank May 13. (Photo by Darcy Wallace, Illinois Valley News)

## From the Desk of the Mayor:



It's getting closer to fire season and we all need to be aware of high weeds and piled-up trash. I would like to see if we can get the property owners to try and keep the weeds from going to seed. It's every property owner's responsibility to keep their lots down to lessen the chance of having a major fire go through town.

This is such a pretty community that we all should be more concerned about weeds and trash, not only our own but our neighbors who are not aware of the city ordinance #8.08.060. Old refrigerators must have the doors removed.

#8.08.100 scattering rubbish about a home or lot to create a fire hazard or detract from the cleanliness or safety of the property.

#8.08.120 fences, no barbed wire on private property excepting commercial property.

All these ordinances will be enforced upon a complaint being made and the owner being notified they will have ten (10) days to contact city hall and make arrangements to correct and if not taken care of will be referred to the city council for abatement.

But we really don't want to do this, it's so much easier to take care of the problem.

Thank you for your concern for our city and keep up the good work. We can make this our town and not just another place to live in.

Mayor Carl Jacobson Jr.

## Letters to the Editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

**POLICY ON LETTERS:** 'Illinois Valley News' encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The "News" reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

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(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers)

### Closing Down America

This is in response to some previous letter about the rich paying 60% tax rate. This guy is obviously not rich enough

to buy a newspaper. Because during the recent tax season, we were reminded over and over again, by the media that the wealthiest companies, Exxon and GE did not pay any taxes for their outrageous profits of 2010. And to add insult to injury, they've devised a scheme to bilk real taxpayers (us) of billions of dollars in subsidies - corporate welfare. There have never been so many rich people in America, and they have never been this filthy rich or greedy. Now they have us closing down America because they're too cheap and miserable to save it.

And by the way, in the 1950's, when corporate tax rate was 92% and most American workers belonged to a union and received a living wage, America was a better place to live.

Greg Horton  
Cave Junction

### Reward for Vandals Identification

Someone in our valley knows something about the vandals who destroyed the West Fork trailhead and stole the benches and picnic tables. Why is it no one has come forward with information? The reward for information on this crime is \$775. This will buy a lot of things these days, including gas for your car, lots of groceries, or pay the rent.

Volunteers from the community donated their time and money to buy the materials to rebuild the new kiosk and install it in the trailhead. But the picnic tables and benches are gone, and there are no funds to replace them. If the residents of the Illinois Valley want to watch another of their public places revert to a trashed out garbage

heap where families are afraid to go (like some other public areas here), then I suppose we needn't do anything. The next time serious vandalism occurs, we'll just assume no one cares and let it sit there.

But if any of us care about preserving a beautiful recreation site that all of us can enjoy, then help us find the punks who stole the three redwood benches, the two cedar picnic tables, and tore down the kiosk. \$775 could certainly help someone right now and you can remain anonymous.

Contact JoCo Sheriff at 474-5123, Ext. 5 (case #2011-2812) or Oregon State Police Trooper Elvey at 955-6370, Ext. 5006 (case #11-140541).

Sue Williams  
Cave Junction

### Huge Mistakes

My name is Tyler Hammersmith and I made a huge mistake recently. I just want to apologize to Tyler, Rebecca, Crystal, and Patricia, and say I am so sorry for what I have done. I realize what I did was wrong, and I am doing everything possible to pay you guys back. I'm trying to get a job right now so I can pay you back for everything. I am making changes in my life and intend to never do anything like this again, and I wish it had not happened at all. Again, I apologize and I hope you can all forgive me for my actions. I really am very sorry.

Tyler Hammersmith  
Cave Junction

that helped gather the trash found along Caves Hwy., Saturday May 14th. Thank you Ann for hauling the bags to the dump. Thank you Judy for the cup of coffee and cookie. Much appreciated. I just keep meeting such kind, caring people here in CJ. Can't wait for the next project.

All you folks out there in CJ, please help keep our roadways, highways and special city clean. I am hoping there will be a way to add new trash cans along the city streets so there will be places to throw our paper, bottles, etc. How about it Managers of City Government? Where are the trash cans?

Barbara Padgett  
Cave Junction

### Many Thanks

I would like to thank Ann, Charlie, Roger, and all others

IVHS Activities Calendar brought to you by the folks at		
541-592-3556 Cave Junction		541-471-7487 Grants Pass
541-469-7545 Brookings	HANDCRAFTED FOOD & ALE	541-773-7487 Medford
<b>Thursday, May 19</b> IVLL Softball @ IV field 6:00pm-8:00pm (every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday)	<b>Friday, May 20</b> Track Coed Team- Illinois Valley High School @ OSAA 3A State Championships All Day	<b>Saturday, May 21</b> Track Coed Team- Illinois Valley High School @ OSAA 3A State Championships All Day <b>Softball Girls Varsity- Illinois Valley High School @ FIRST ROUND PLAYOFFS All Day</b>

## EVENTS CALENDAR

presentes  
Blue Grass Music by  
**FINGER PICKIN' GOOD**

Saturday, May 21st  
5:00pm to 8:00pm

Every Wed - Open Mic Night from 6-8pm with Jim Nolan

### "B" Wishes

Friday, May 20th  
5:30pm at Taylor's Country Store

To add an event to this calendar call 541-592-2541  
**IT'S ONLY \$5!**

IVHS School Menu - Sponsored by  25647 Redwood Hwy. Cave Junction 541-592-4111	<b>THURSDAY, May 19</b> Pasta with marinara/ meat sauce or bean & cheese burritos, chicken burger or cheese burger, cheese, bbq chicken or supreme pizza, Italian turkey & cheese spicy chicken wrap, or chef, anti pasta or garden salads	<b>FRIDAY, May 20</b> Nacho supreme, wiener wrap, corn dog, spicy chicken burger, cheeseburger, pepperoni, supreme or taco pizza; ham & cheese or turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden or Mandarin chicken salad
	<b>MONDAY, May 23</b> Beef soft tacos, chicken strips, spicy chicken burger, hamburger, pepperoni, cheese, vegetarian or sausage pizza; ham & cheese or turkey & cheese sandwich, turkey wrap; chef, garden or Mandarin chicken salad	<b>TUESDAY, May 24</b> Chicken fajitas, Rib-Que sandwich, chicken burger, cheeseburger, pepperoni, cheese or Hawaiian pizza; Italian or turkey & cheese sandwich, spicy chicken wrap; chef, antipasto or garden salad

# FREE! CLEAN! FREE!

## Clothes Give-Away!

**Saturday, May 21**  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Takilma Bible Church**  
10343 Takilma Rd.

Elementary School Lunch Menu Sponsored by  541-592-2413	<b>THURSDAY, May 19</b> Turkey & cream cheese pinwheels, black bean salad, whole grain chicken corn dog, chicken quesadilla triangles, baked macaroni w/ three cheeses	<b>FRIDAY, May 20</b> Yogurt parfait, tuna torpedo sandwich, classic chef salad, cheesy burger on a multi grain bun, fiesta beans & cheese over tortilla triangles	
	<b>MONDAY, May 23</b> Ham & cheese sub sandwich, Caesar salad, turkey hot dog on a bun, spaghetti w/ meat or marinara sauce, baked chicken bites w/ baked fries	<b>TUESDAY, May 24</b> Very veggie wrap, poppin' chicken salad, chicken patty on a multi grain bun, toasted cheese sandwich, big taco Tuesday	<b>WEDNESDAY, May 25</b> Minnie Mouse Pin-wheels, Southwestern taco salad, hamburger on a multi grain bun, freshly baked cheese or pepperoni pizza, ham & cheese melt, oven baked tater tots

Senior Lunch Menu Sponsored by 541 592-3562	<b>THURSDAY, May 19</b> Pork patty w/ gravy, O'Brien potatoes, cut green beans, whole wheat bread, sugar cookie	<b>FRIDAY, May 20</b> Lemon herb chicken, Delmonico, peas & onions, bran oat bread, pineapple crunch bar	<b>MONDAY, May 23</b> Beef Spanish rice, mexi-	<b>TUESDAY, May 24</b> Macaroni & cheese, escalloped tomatoes, mixed vegetables, Bran rye bread, applesauce	<b>WEDNESDAY, May 25</b> Shaved turkey sandwich half, on whole wheat bread, mixed fruit cup, Romaine iceberg salad, almond cookie
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**Meals are served in the Cave Junction County Building.**  
541-592-2126, 541-955-8839