

Illinois Valley News

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Library wins statewide Governor's Volunteer Award

The volunteers from Josephine Community Libraries who reopened and operate all four branch libraries, and who are currently working to form a library district, won the Governor's Volunteer Award for the State of Oregon for their dedication and ongoing service to Josephine County over the past five years.

"Our libraries are busy with so many people coming in to use them every day," said Nancy Hitchcock, volunteer, founding member, and donor. "This state recognition means so much to us, especially as we are working hard to establish stable funding."

In 2013, over 400 volunteers provided 29,133 hours of service to operate the libraries in the Illinois Valley, Grants Pass, Williams and Wolf Creek. This equates to approximately \$563,000 based on Oregon's volunteer rate. Volunteers do everything from cataloging and shelving books and providing information to library users, to hosting children's story times and checking books in and out. Volunteers also provide behind-the-scenes expertise, including marketing communications, fund-raising, outreach, inter-branch courier service, facilities maintenance, and more.

"Our amazing, dedicated library volunteers are the heart of our library, and the hope of our community," said JCL Volunteer Coordinator Norma Singer.

The volunteer awards are organized by the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service, which promotes and supports volunteerism to strengthen Oregon communities. With the award comes a cash prize of \$600 donated by Wells Fargo.

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First candidate forum held

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

More than 50 people attended the first candidate forum in the Illinois Valley for the May 20 primary election. The event at the Josephine County Building was sponsored by Community Media and Education Center and organized by Guenter Ambron.

The evening began with short neighborhood watch reports followed by a presentation by Sheriff Gil Gilbertson on a variety of issues including the idea of training citizens to provide evidence collection for burglaries and other crime investigations.

In response to a question by county commissioner candidate Mark Seligman, Gilbertson stated that the budget for the sheriff's office has been reduced by \$500,000 by the current county commissioners.

The candidate forum was limited to the challengers for Gilbertson's position and that of Simon Hare, current county commissioner, Position 1.

Sheriff candidate Dave R. Daniel (no relation to former Sheriff Dave Daniels) said, "I'm not a politician, I'm a police officer." He cited his experience in law enforcement beginning as a reserve deputy through becoming an Oregon State Trooper based in Fossil, Ore. More recently, as a police of-

ficer in Grants Pass, he received a Medal of Honor from Grants Pass Public Safety for his work as an arbiter in 2013. He earned a bachelor of science from Oregon State University and later a master's degree in management at Southern Oregon University.

Sheriff candidate Ed Vincent cited his 15 years of experience as a Josephine County Sheriff's Office Deputy, during which he's received an award for life-saving among others. He criticized the current proposed levy for the county.

"One million dollars is not going to cut it, it's just a patch," Vincent said. "Even if the levy passes, we won't have personnel to come out and put people in jail."

See Candidate on A-3

Play Ball!



(Photo by Birdy Finch, Illinois Valley News)

Greyson Arnold helped kick off the Illinois Valley Little League's opening day ceremonies Saturday, April 5, at Jubilee Park.

Illinois Valley Industrial Airpark efforts ramp up

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Contributing Writer

The effort to build infrastructure to accommodate development of a light-industrial commercial business park at the Illinois Valley Airport, first initiated more than ten years ago, has been revitalized, thanks to the efforts of the IV Airport Advisory Board, the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization, the Smokejumpers and support from Josephine County Commissioners.

Now renamed the Illinois Valley Industrial Airpark, development first began in earnest back in 1999. The county paved the driveway, the area is divided into lots that feature underground electricity, and water wells are drilled. Now, the entire airport has been fenced in and even has a fuel truck, which enables aircraft to fly in and refuel. The biggest stumbling block at this point is an adequate fire suppression system.

"The airport's three wells don't produce enough water," said local businessman Cameron Camp, who serves on the Airport Advisory Board and the subcommittee for the development of the industrial park. "We'll need a large capacity storage tank to sustain a high flow of water for a specific amount of time to meet performance standards to fight potential fires."

"The idea is to create a turn-key business park," Camp said. "But nailing down an adequate water supply will be a key insurance requirement for anyone doing new construction. The system must be in place to make the Airpark shovel-ready for new development."

According to Camp, once these issues are resolved, businesses located nearby that are interested in shipping their products could benefit.

"We've had positive reports from Fed Ex," Camp said. "They would potentially fly a plane in to pick up products — if there's enough volume."

"We've been discussing the merits of installing a bladder system that would hold 210,000 gallons of water, versus digging out and rebuilding an existing pond on the site," said Josephine County Airports manager Larry Graves. "We also need to address the septic system, but we need an anchor-tenant to get that ball rolling."

"I initiated a meeting with the USDA's Community Development Group in Roseburg and they sent Jennifer Bacigalupo, who pre-qualified us to apply for a grant that would provide seed money for the completion of the fire suppression water system and the start-up of the park," Graves said.

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Farmer markets set opening dates

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

The Cave Junction Farmers Market (CJFM) is set to open next Friday, April 18, and will run for 29 weeks. This will be the second season for the market, located behind Caves Chevron at the corner of Redwood and Caves Highways in Cave Junction.

"The CJ Farmers Market provides a great opportunity for community members living in the Illinois Valley to regularly access fresh, locally grown produce," said market manager Christopher Hall. "The site is large and easy to access for farmers and customers alike. The market will be open 4 to 7 p.m. every Friday through October 31 this year."

As consumers nationwide have become more aware of the importance of fresh, locally grown meat,

eggs and produce, a corresponding interest and support for local producers has developed in the Illinois Valley.

A separate organization, the "Friday Farmer's Market," known for rotating locations between the Selma Community and Education Center (SCEC) and Cave Junction, is celebrating their 10th anniversary this year.

SCEC spokesperson Marilyn Mooshie said, "We're very pleased to announce we've been invited by the Western Star Club of the Order of the Eastern Star to locate our market at the Kerby Belt Building (KBB) this year. We're limiting our season to just two months and will be located at SCEC for our opening market on July 4 and the closing market on August 29, with all the intervening Fridays at the KBB. We appreciate the community support we've received over the years and will have a very

special ten-year anniversary celebration at the August 29 market in Selma."

Another hallmark of the increased awareness of supporting local food producers, the IV Farm and Garden Festival, has taken place each September for the past five years.

Event organizer Deb Lukas said, "The IV Food Coalition is a collaboration of farming and community members working together to promote food self-sufficiency, safety and sharing. The IVFoodCo is fostered by the Spiral Living Center (SLC), a non-profit group promoting sustainable living skills in the Illinois Valley. We ask the community to join us — businesses, churches, non-profits, farmers and gardeners — to enhance and broaden access and availability to safe, local food and food products."

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