

Illinois Valley News

Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 1 Section, 12 Pages, Volume 77 No. 40 Published Weekly Cave Junction, Oregon 97523

illinois-valley-news.com

Toler to talk senior resources in CJ

By
Judy Hoyle
IVN Contributing Writer

A special presentation will take place at the I.V. Senior Center December 15 at 1:30 p.m. Dave Toler will discuss Aging and Disability Resources available from the Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG). The presentation is free and open to the public as part of the monthly Senior Talks series. Topics will include in-home care, home-delivered meals, caregiver support, help with housing costs, assisted living, medical transport, and more.

A former Josephine County Commissioner, Toler is the RVCOG Director of Senior and Disability Services.

This organization has been assisting seniors in obtaining essential services for over 30 years.

Twenty-seven percent of the combined population of Jackson and Josephine counties are over age 60 and nearly half of those seniors live in rural areas. The state average is only fourteen percent that is age 60 or older. While the state median household income is nearly \$50,000, Josephine County median household income is only 77% of that, around \$38,000.

RVCOG Senior and Disability Services focus on assisting with healthy aging, economic stability, safety and rights and community services. The organization offers a "Living Well" program for those dealing with chronic illness such as diabetes, osteoporosis or cancer. Information includes medication management, appropriate exercise or help dealing with depression.

They also offer a "Caregiver Course" to provide tips and enhance coping skills; as well as referrals to other programs, such as Adult Protective Services. There are nearly 29,000 family caregivers in the two counties.

See Seniors on A-10

Santa came to town



(Photo by Dan Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Chamber board member Cary Riley greets Santa at the Dec. 4 Christmas tree lighting. More than 100 people came to see Santa and attend the tree lighting.

Bill expanding Oregon Caves on verge of approval

By
Jeff Barnard,
Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. (AP) — Decades of efforts to expand the Oregon Caves National Monument to protect water quality and reduce the danger of wildfires are on the verge of paying off.

A bill expanding the boundary around the southwestern Oregon marble caves to include its watershed has been attached to a defense spending bill, which passed the House on

Thursday and was expected to pass the Senate next week.

Oregon Democratic Rep. Peter DeFazio said Thursday one of his first projects after being elected to Congress in 1986 was trying to get the U.S. Forest Service to cede land around the monument to the National Park Service, and when that didn't work, to pass legislation.

The bill includes designation of the River Styx running through the caves as the nation's first underground wild and scenic river.

Discovered by a hunter chasing a bear, the marble caves were designated a national

monument covering a 480-acre rectangle in the Siskiyou Mountains outside Cave Junction in 1909 by President William Howard Taft. The park service formally proposed expanding the monument to encompass the surrounding watershed in 1939, 1949 and 2000. The bill would add 4,000 acres defined by the surrounding watershed rather than an arbitrary line on a map. The area includes Bigelow Lake.

The monument is the site of The Chateau, a six-story lodge that opened in 1934 and is a National Historic Landmark.

In order to accommodate hunting and

give conservationists a chance to buy out an existing cattle-grazing permit, the expansion area will be designated a national preserve, said Joseph Vaile of the conservation group KS Wild. The group has been paying the permit holder not to graze for three years, and it hopes to raise money to permanently retire the permit.

DeFazio said the park service plans to start thinning overgrown forests to reduce the threat of wildfire and establish new hiking trails, which should draw visitors for longer stays that are expected to help the local economy.

Valley election results vary from overall county numbers

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

Josephine County recently released certified results from the Nov. 4 election and some interesting trends become apparent when examining the numbers in the Illinois Valley's five voting precincts.

For example, while Sheriff Gil Gilbertson lost his overall reelection bid in the countywide sheriff's race to Dave Daniel, he won the majority of votes in all Illinois Valley precincts.

In the run-off for County Commissioner Simon Hare's seat, Hare narrowly hung onto the lead

in the Valley, scoring a smaller percentage of the votes when compared to the countywide average. Write-in candidate Toni Webb earned a fair share of votes both in the Valley and countywide, (which some say may have cost Mark Gatlin (Hare's closest opponent) a possible overall victory.

Another noteworthy result was the "Freedom from Pesticides Bill of Rights," County Measure 17-63, which tallied a higher percentage of votes in the Illinois Valley than in the rest of the county; indicating to organizers that strong local education efforts paid off. Headquartered in the Valley, the Freedom From Pesticides Alliance has committed to carrying

on.

State Measure 92, calling for the mandatory labeling of GMO's, was a close call, triggering a recount. Josephine County Clerk Art Harvey has completed Josephine County's recount and said, "There is only a net change of eight more 'yes' votes."

Other counties are still working on their recounts, so the final statewide tally is not yet known.

If passed, the GMO labeling law would require food manufacturers and retailers to identify and label genetically engineered foods. Proponents say it's an initiative whose time has come, because the public has a right to know what's in their food.

They also say they're encouraged by the large positive response and will keep pushing for what they call "common sense" legislation.

Opponents say Measure 92 would create a complex and misleading "Oregon-only" food labeling system that no other state requires and claim the labeling requirements and "arbitrary exemptions" would hurt family farmers and small businesses.

With the passage of Measure 91, Oregonians ended the state's prohibition of marijuana, taking marijuana sales off the black market and legalizing the possession, use and cultivation of marijuana by adults 21 and older. At the county level, Measure

17-65, an advisory measure on taxing marijuana, passed overwhelmingly in all Valley precincts.

While the campaign to create a library district also failed, this initiative also gained high levels of support in all Valley precincts and won the vote in both the Cave Junction and Kerby precincts.

Cave Junction's Mayor Carl Jacobsen and incumbent City Councilman Daniel Dalegowski both won their elections with solid numbers. New Councilman Dan Bosch also captured a healthy lead; though write-in candidate Lindsey Gillette earned a substantial number of votes. **See Results on A-10**

Horse and car collide

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

It's something most of us do daily without giving it much thought, yet it's the most dangerous activity we engage in on a regular basis: driving.

One Illinois Valley gentleman recently received a rude reminder of this reality when, at dawn, on his way home after working a night shift, he struck and killed a horse on the road, totaling his car.

Piecing together the evidence, Illinois Valley Division Chief Kamron Ismaili said, "It was still dark and it seems the horse just popped out of the ditch in front of

the guy's car. No one hits a horse on purpose."

"The man was shook-up, but he's OK. Airbags probably saved his life," Ismaili said. "Alcohol or drugs were not factors and I doubt he was speeding, because if he were, the horse would have come through the windshield. Horses have tall legs so, with that high center of gravity, it doesn't take much speed to knock a horse up and over a car."

Ismaili also said the horse died instantly.

The owner of the horse became aware that it had escaped its enclosure and arrived at the scene just after the accident occurred.

Ismaili, also a horse owner, said he knows it can be a challenge

to keep some horses penned in, explaining that, "some of them are just escape artists. But it's important to regularly check your fences and do your best to keep them safely confined."

Ironically, just minutes before arriving at the scene of this tragedy, Ismaili had hit a deer. And, last year, during the fall saturation patrols, a state trooper hit a black bear.

"We live in a rural area, so that comes with a different set of problems," Ismaili said. "It's important for drivers to keep their speeds down on country roads, but that still doesn't mean you'll never hit anything. That's why we have insurance policies."

See Car on A-10



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, *Illinois Valley News*)

Three escape artists near Cave Junction.